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THE BLANKENBURGS OF PHILADELPHIA

By
One of Them
LUCRETIA L. BLANKENBURG

*"A noble life is not a blaze of sudden glory won,
But just an adding up of days in which good
work is done."*

THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY
Chicago PHILADELPHIA Toronto

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RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG, THE REFORM MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA
"In every crusade for civic righteousness Rudolph Blankenburg was foremost"

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PHILADELPHIA

The Blankenburgs

DEDICATED TO PHILADELPHIA
OUR CITY

PREFACE

RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG was great in his loyalty to Philadelphia. He belonged to the era portrayed in Lincoln Steffens' *The Shame of the Cities*, in which America awakened to a sense of its responsibility in local government. In the decades which followed the Civil War, pride in the national achievements of the great parties closed the eyes of their partisans to the corruption and inefficiency of party government in the cities. A champion was needed, who, like the gadfly of Socrates, would sting the body politic into vitality. In every large city, there was an instant response to this need, and in the group of crusaders for civic righteousness, Blankenburg, both in ideals and accomplishment, was foremost.

Devotion to the city of his choice was his most distinguishing characteristic. "Philadelphia, *my* city," he would cry, and his earnestness aroused many who had formerly regarded patriotism as a quality which applied only to national affairs. Moreover, he illustrated his principles. When the leaders of the City Party were consid-

ering a ticket for submission to the party convention, in 1905, there was a popular desire to nominate Blankenburg for County Commissioner. It was not a lofty position of leadership; it was a minor political job; but this office had the supervision of the election machinery, and there was a widespread feeling that the nomination of the "Old War Horse of Reform" for such an office would be most fitting. Blankenburg objected, and as the importunity continued, he protested vehemently that he did not want the nomination, that it would alter materially his plans for life, and that it would identify him with self-seeking in the popular mind. After a heated argument, Francis B. Reeves, who was one of the group, finally said, "Mr. Blankenburg, it is your duty to the city to accept"; whereupon, Mr. Blankenburg, in deference to the advice of a lifelong friend, finally consented. "Duty to the city," was always a guiding maxim of his life.

Behind this intense patriotism, there was a strong and vivid personality which commanded respect, esteem, and affection, even from his opponents. If there be any truth in the impression that reformers have a sour attitude toward life and that their energies are devoted to carping criticism, it certainly finds no expression in the life of Rudolph Blankenburg. He enjoyed life

thoroughly, and his tremendous capacity to make the best of circumstances was one of the great factors in his success. He rarely made an address that did not contain evidences of his sense of humor. In the spring of 1905, when the reformers planned to rent the Academy of Music for a citizens' protest against the gas lease, and the opposing organization, in anticipation of this plan, rented the building, and kept it empty in order to block the reformers, it was Rudolph Blankenburg who, in an adjacent theater, crowded to the doors, declared that "while the citizens were meeting in a small hall, the organization was holding a meeting in the historic Academy of Music and because of the quiet and dark that there prevailed, it must be a meeting of their "phantom voters." The success of this hit was instantaneous. The phrase "phantom voters," as applied to the fraudulent names on the voting lists, became a slogan in the campaign that followed. The apt quotations in this book from Mr. Blankenburg's public addresses will revive many inspiring memories of Philadelphia's militant crusader.

Although he was a hard-hitter, he was always a square-shooter; even the leaders of the opposing organization acknowledged his personal integrity, the charm of his manner, and the delightful and whimsical sense of humor which

made him a welcome guest at every table. To my mind, this achievement of a great personality is what has caused Rudolph Blankenburg to live. Others have been devoted to their city and have suggested useful ideas for the improvement of administration. He was unique in bringing to these problems a soul overflowing with good nature and kindliness. He set a new standard for a municipal citizenship which involved vehement attacks upon abuses, and yet at the same time, gave blows which left no scar upon the heart.

The excellent tribute which Mrs. Blankenburg, the faithful coadjutor in all of his plans and labors, has prepared is well worth while as a permanent memorial of a man who made the world richer and better by his life, and who set standards in citizenship the influence of which will be felt for many generations.

FRANKLIN SPENCER EDMONDS

Leave Area Farm, Whitemarsh, Pa.
June 14, 1928

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FOREWORD

THIS biography has been gathered largely from scrapbook notes. Mr. Blankenburg kept a general record by newspaper clippings of the political happenings of the years of his activities. It was his intention to write his autobiography after the close of his mayoralty term, but owing to ill health it was not possible for him to undertake such a task.

Most of these scrapbook notes have been preserved in connection with the biography for future reference. They fill twenty-four volumes, and are preserved for reference by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in its library at Thirteenth and Locust Streets in Philadelphia, together with Mr. Blankenburg's own story of Pennsylvania politics, "Forty Years in the Wilderness." The scrapbook notes are the basis for most of the data presented in the following pages.

Rather than let the record of his life work for Philadelphia fade away, I have tried to weave a story that will convey some idea of his effort to combat the invisible powers of political darkness. The following pages will introduce to the

reader a man whose love for Philadelphia, his adopted home, never failed, no matter what the disappointments or the success. "No other man was quite like him," says one commentator. "His was an individuality unmistakable and unique. In all his political speeches there was a sense of humanity, a flavor of humor and of fighting vigor that no one else did quite duplicate." Mr. Blankenburg never lost his courage or hope. He believed that eventually men and women together would succeed in creating better conditions of municipal administration and political morals. A favorite expression of his was "My city." He was preëminently "the peoples' Mayor."

The reform movements in Philadelphia have been of short duration with the exception of that led by the Committee of Seventy which was organized November 14, 1904, to watch the elections and prosecute political fraud whenever possible. The Committee of Seventy is active at this date, 1928.

Mr. Blankenburg is here quoted as saying that the requisites of a reformer are "candor, sincerity, and utter absence of double dealing; without these qualities he will be a failure." Each group of reformers has lost some of its numbers by listening to the siren of the machine, or through the desire of its leaders to hold office.

Several important changes in the laws for bettering political conditions in Philadelphia were made during the period covered by these notes: witness the Bullitt Bill, 1885; the Personal Registration Bill, and the Direct Uniform Primaries Act of 1906. Since then has come the present New Charter which reduced the City Council to twenty-one members, each member receiving a salary of five thousand dollars a year.

Since women have voted, the polling places are better kept, and less disorder prevails on election day.

The politicians spend great sums of money to keep themselves in power, consequently they keep a tight grip on the public revenues and maintain the "silent habit" of Cameron and Quay.

In Philadelphia the machine organization has become even more powerful since 1916. The typical political machine in our large cities has three main foundations. It traffics in public franchises, and public-service corporations are too often its financial supporters. It awards contracts for public work at inordinate profits to political contractors who are, therefore, usually found among the powerful political bosses. It maintains its political ascendancy through the distribution of public offices among its active political workers, who thus become enslaved

to the leaders to whom they owe their bread and butter and must pay assessments.

Mr. Blankenburg consistently took the public into his confidence and made known his stand upon all public questions. In the Department of Public Safety, for example, the hearings of all policemen and firemen to be tried were thrown open to the public and the charges were discussed with frankness. Prior to this all routine charges against members of the Department of Safety were heard and judged behind closed doors. By this method unfit men could be protected by their political friends, no matter what complaints citizens might make against them. Similarly men of good character could be dismissed, disciplined, disgraced, or humiliated by the political powers in control of the Department of Safety.

In a report of the Department of Public Works for 1913 it is stated that ninety-four per cent of all city employees paid assessments. It was and is against the law to solicit these subscriptions. The system was discontinued during Mayor Blankenburg's administration of city offices from 1912 to 1916, was resumed gradually after he left office, and is still in force. A quarter of a million dollars was raised from this source to use in the campaign against the election of Mr. Blankenburg.

The machine has lost several of its old engineers since 1916, but new experts have taken their places. This machine is a growing menace to all taxpayers, for it requires a great deal of lubrication (money) to run it. Note the price paid for office and the cost of an election, also the cost of supporting ward mechanics, precinct workers, and sinecures. It was recently stated that present sinecures (1927) did not cost the city more than $200,000 a year, when the City Council was discussing the tax raise!

Mr. Blankenburg suggested that one remedy against the growth of the machine would be for business men to take an interest in politics beyond the act of voting. "Every community," he said, "should take up the question of sending strong business men to Congress, to the Halls of Legislation in our states and the Legislative bodies of our municipalities. The result would definitely show that the business man's entry into politics and public affairs is not only necessary for his own good, but also for the good of the whole community in which he lives."

Running as it does through the periods of ten mayoralty administrations, I have grouped the facts of this narrative in sequence. Note has been made of the periods divided into mayoralty terms as follows:

MAYORS

1877–1881	William S. Stokley
1881–1884	Samuel G. King
1884–1887	William B. Smith
1887–1891	Edwin H. Fitler
1891–1895	Edwin S. Stuart
1895–1899	Charles F. Warwick
1899–1903	Samuel H. Ashbridge
1903–1907	John Weaver
1907–1911	John E. Reyburn (4 years and 7 months)
1911–1916	Rudolph Blankenburg (4 years and 1 month)

BOOK ONE

The Biography of Rudolph Blankenburg

Chapter I

ENTRANCE UPON LIFE

IN the little village of Barntrup near the city of Detmold, Germany, Rudolph Blankenburg was born, February 16, 1843. He was the son of Louis and Sophie (Goede) Blankenburg. Three years later the family moved to Hillentrup, where Mr. Blankenburg's father was a minister of the German Reformed Church. As a child he was precocious and sensitive. Even then he displayed a keen sense of justice. He often suffered undeserved punishment because he was not understood.

In early life Rudolph developed a spirit of service toward those about him. After asking his father, one time, whether it was not right for us to help our "Mitmenschen" (our fellow men), he was, to his great chagrin, called "Mitmensch" by his brothers and sisters. Between the ages of seven and fourteen his education was conducted by a private tutor, a graduate of the Berlin University. He commenced to study Latin when six years of age, French when nine years of age, English at eleven, and Greek at twelve, and always displayed a great inclination

for the study of languages. He had a retentive memory, and early became proficient in French and English, as well as German. When fourteen years of age, he left home, and for three years attended the celebrated Real Gymnasium at Lippstadt.

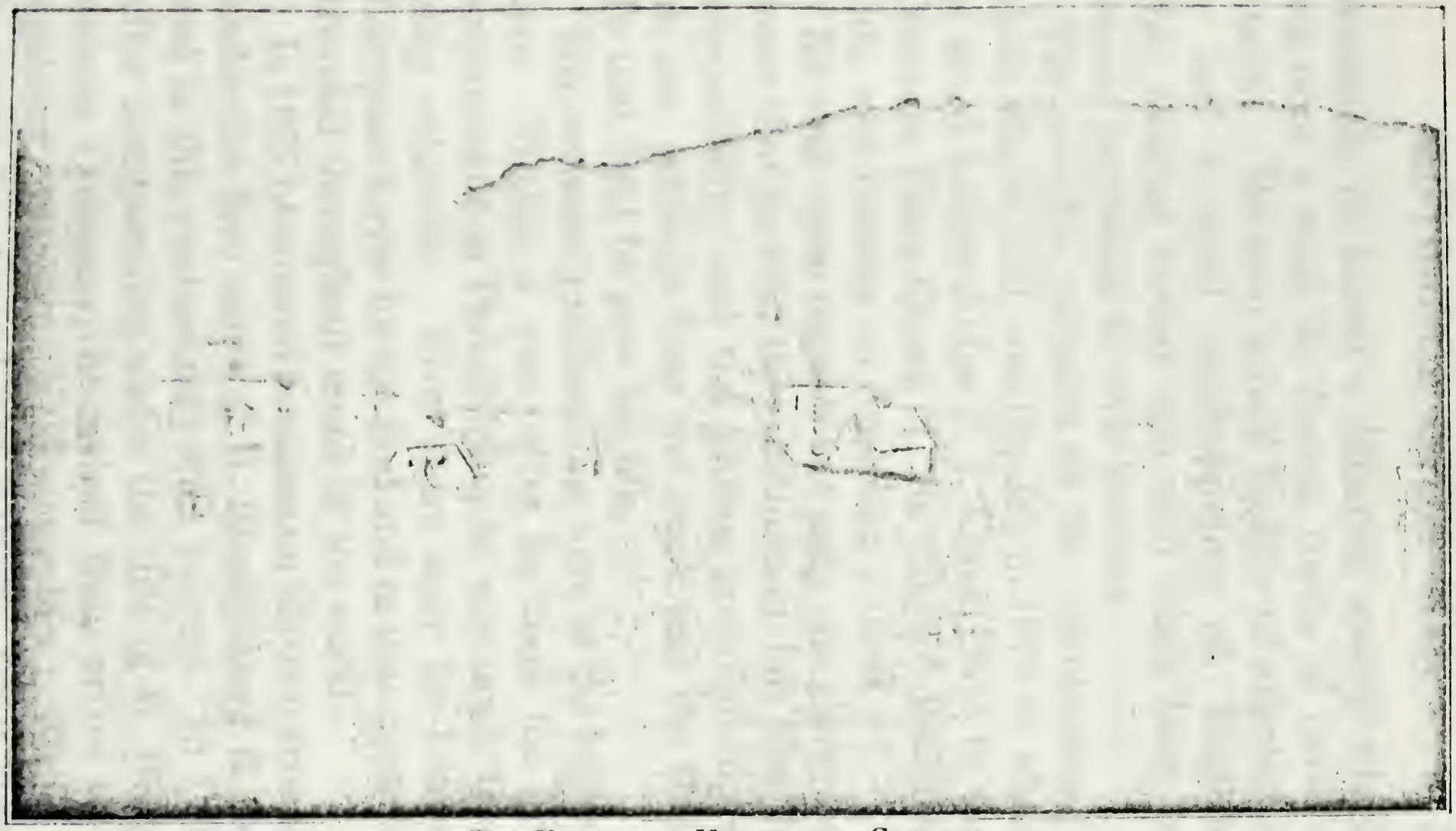
It was the ambition of Rudolph's parents that he prepare for the ministry. This did not appeal to him nor did the army, for he resented the enforced militarism then the rule in Germany. At that time young soldier recruits were drawn by lot; so many to the neighborhood. Fortunately he was not drawn and so was left free to choose a career, and on invitation from his uncle he went to Lippstadt to learn to be a merchant.

It was not long before he developed a desire for wider opportunities and a fuller knowledge of the world.

In 1865 Rudolph followed his tutor, Carl Becker, to America. Mr. Becker lived near Hammonton, New Jersey. After visiting Mr. Becker, Mr. Blankenburg came to Philadelphia and engaged as a salesman with William H. Horstmann & Sons, manufacturers of military goods and importers of notions and yarns.

A Proud Moment

He at once made application to become an American citizen. In preparation for his new



THE VILLAGE OF HILLENTRUP, GERMANY

In this little town Rudolph Blankenburg was raised, his family having moved there when Rudolph was three years old. The church of which his father was pastor is in the foreground

citizenship he joined a debating society which met once a week to discuss topics of current interest. He soon gained facility of expression in, and a rapid understanding of, English. This training served him well when later he became interested in civic matters.

The proudest moment of Mr. Blankenburg's whole life, he said, was the day in 1870 on which he stood before Judge J. I. Clark Hare in the Common Pleas Court of the City of Philadelphia, and became an American citizen.

He took upon himself not only the glory and honor that go with that distinction, but also the responsibility, and the jealous guardianship of his new privilege from the crook and the thief. To that fight he gave his life.

His business qualifications were of the highest type. Within a year after he took his first employment in Philadelphia he was made traveling salesman. Five years later he became European buyer for his firm and in that capacity traveled throughout much of the world.

In 1875 he entered business on his own account under the firm name of R. Blankenburg & Co., and in this venture met with success. In 1909, after incorporating under the title of R. Blankenburg Company, he retired from active management, retaining a directorship. While in business he crossed the Atlantic forty times,

made a trip around the world, and later made two trips to Japan.

He was fortunate in having men on whom he could rely to carry on the home end of the business in Philadelphia, and because of their reliability, which relieved him of many routine cares, he was able to think about politics and other public matters when at home.

Chapter II

FIRST STEPS IN REFORM

MR. BLANKENBURG was a friend of the people, and the implacable foe of the political machine organization which as early as the Centennial had its grip firmly on the city of his adoption. Throngs of people were visiting the Centennial on complimentary tickets on Sundays while the public was denied admittance. The injustice of this, especially for the working classes, caused Mr. Blankenburg to organize a committee which held public meetings to create public sentiment in favor of opening the Centennial grounds on Sunday. Near the close of the Exhibition in 1876 his efforts were crowned with success.

1877–1881

After the close of the Centennial, organized charity appeared to be the city's urgent need. The overlapping of works of charity and the habit of sentimental giving, especially to beggars at the door who often were undeserving, without knowledge of the facts in any given case, caused this movement to be started. Meetings

were held in all the wards of the city, mostly in churches. Mr. Blankenburg was one of the leading speakers to advocate an organized plan of help for the deserving poor.

All the wards were organized and agents were employed to visit or investigate all cases brought to the notice of the new association. The agent's work was supplemented by that of a ward committee of women visitors. At first this method of reaching the poor seemed to work well, but gradually the people lost their interest in it, and the contributions were not sufficient to continue the work. Later another plan was adopted.

Mr. Blankenburg was the associate of the political reformers who first lifted the banner of revolt against political control by corrupt organizations. Side by side with others of his way of thinking and feeling he met with a few successes and many defeats.

The Committee of One Hundred, composed of representative citizens from every walk of life, came into existence in 1880 and undertook to improve the conditions of politics and public administration in Philadelphia. This committee commenced its work by opposing William S. Stokley for reëlection as Mayor. The members of the Committee of One Hundred at first thought they must stand by the Republican

Convention's renomination of Stokley. Mr. Blankenburg insisted that they could not bring about reform by reëlecting the incumbent, and so withdrew from the committee.

In a few days the committee began to see the situation as he presented it, and joined him in his efforts to elect a fusion candidate for Mayor and an Independent Republican for Collector of Taxes. The committee was successful, notwithstanding the gross election frauds perpetrated by the opposition. Among the frauds perpetrated were the fixing of returns on the day preceding election, and the opening of ballots and the systematic marking of them as ordered by the ward boss.

Samuel G. King, Democrat, was elected Mayor and John Hunter, Republican, Collector of Taxes. These officials were in sympathy with the Committee of One Hundred and aided the members when and where it was possible to do so.

1881–1884

The Committee of One Hundred met the day after election, February 15, 1881, and appointed a Special Committee on Election Frauds, with Rudolph Blankenburg as chairman. Within twelve months Mr. Blankenburg reported nineteen men in prison, "with plenty of room for

more." Later he reported that forty-seven men had been convicted and were serving sentences.

On the morning of election day, February 21, 1882, every election officer in Philadelphia received a circular letter from the Committee of One Hundred stating that it had offered rewards aggregating $10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons guilty of election frauds. Posters were put up at each polling place stating the reward. The announcement was in all the morning newspapers. This led to the cleanest election known to Philadelphia. This plan was one of Mr. Blankenburg's suggestions and was adopted by the committee with enthusiasm.

During the King administration, the Committee of One Hundred investigated the Water Department, the Gas Trust, the Fairmount Park Commission, and the street-car management, all of which were conducted more or less by the machine politicians, and many of these men profited by their opportunity to rob the public crib.

The inquiry into the Gas Trust iniquities was more amazing than the others of this group. A board of Gas Trustees took charge of the making of gas for Philadelphia on March 21, 1835, and remained in possession of the gas works until 1883 when a reform Council drove them

out of office. James McManus, the president of the Board, was the "boss" of Philadelphia at this time. Both the Gas Trust and the Park Commission sat behind closed doors and made no reports that the general taxpayer could understand. The whole gas affair is recorded as the most infamous of that period.

The Almshouse was then another center of festering corruption. The *North American* said that "it reeked with incapacity, neglect, and recklessness." It was under the control of a Board called the "Guardians of the Poor"—popularly designated as the "Board of Buzzards." This Board was practically driven from office, the superintendent dismissed, and a new Board appointed. Soon better conditions were brought about to the great benefit of the inmates of the Almshouse and the city.

The Delinquent Tax Office proved upon examination to be one of the most profitable offices in the grip of the gang of that period. At least $200,000 each year was squeezed out of widows and unfortunate poor. After a long fight this office was abolished and all tax collections were made under the direction of the Receiver of Taxes.

That the Tax Office itself was not free from embezzlement and frauds, the reform Tax Collector, John Hunter, soon discovered; and

Mr. Blankenburg, chairman of the Committee on Frauds, of the Committee of One Hundred, began to ferret out the trouble. These frauds were conducted in hundreds of ways and managed so shrewdly that it was not necessary to cover up false entries.

The Board of Revision of Taxes came in for its share of investigation and reform. This Board was appointed by the Judges. The Sheriff's office was attacked in turn, and in a speech Mr. Blankenburg said that he believed it was the most corrupt of all the city offices. The Committee on Frauds did yeoman service and exposed to public attention virtually all the corrupt political methods in force at that time.

Chapter III

THE FIGHT AGAINST QUAY AND THE RIPPER BILL

THE election held February 19, 1884, was disastrous for the Committee of One Hundred. It was a repetition of the old story. Political jugglery by the machine and the work of designing men playing the game of politics among the regulars and the independents, finally caused the committee to weaken in its usefulness and eventually to dissolve. The committee, however, was the parent body of all the later Philadelphia reform committees, such as the Committee of Seventy.

1884–1887

Mr. Blankenburg was a Republican in national affairs. He stood in the open and fought bribery, graft, election frauds, and every form of political dishonesty. He was one of the leading spirits of the Committee of One Hundred. His intuition and enthusiasm helped the committee over many difficult places.

When the Committee of One Hundred became inactive, a new committee entered the conflict.

This was the Committee of Fifty which included many of the Committee of One Hundred. Mr. Blankenburg was made chairman of the Campaign Committee. In 1891 at the election in February, the Fifty were not discouraged. They were well satisfied at seating one-half of their Councilmanic candidates. Nor were they done fighting; for in the election of 1892 a combination of the corrupt elements of both parties defeated this committee in its Councilmanic contest.

National Politics

The tariff question was the slogan of the National Republican Campaign for Harrison and Morton in 1887, against the Democrat, Grover Cleveland, advocate of tariff reduction.

Mr. Blankenburg believed in a protective tariff. His addresses on the tariff were so clear and convincing that he was invited to stump the state of Iowa for Harrison. This he did and everywhere he was received with enthusiasm, but his warmest admirers were in his own state where he was respected both by those who believed in him and by those who feared him.

In 1896, the National Republican League of Business Men was organized by Mr. Blankenburg. The first unit was formed in Philadelphia. The clubs composing the National Republican

League of Business Men were a large factor in electing President McKinley. Mr. Blankenburg was active in the campaign, speaking in all parts of the country.

On February 14, 1892, the first of a series of Sunday evening addresses on public affairs by prominent men was delivered by Rudolph Blankenburg. Among many good things said in this address were: "Intelligence is the foundation of good citizenship." "Educate the masses, and cut loose from party politics." "If Moses had lived until today there would be an eleventh Commandment—Thou shalt not desecrate the ballot." So deep was the impression made upon some of the young women in the audience that Miss Mary Wister (afterwards Mrs. Owen Wister) and Miss Cornelia Frothingham shortly thereafter organized the Civic Club of Philadelphia with the purpose of educating the women of Philadelphia in political matters. At this writing the club is active, and it did much in preparing women for the franchise in 1920.

During these years of his political activity, Mr. Blankenburg made many addresses on the duties of citizenship and the ethics of politics. His convictions were strong and his manner earnest. He was an optimist always.

There became operative, June 1, 1885, through legislative action of the state, a new city charter

defined in the Bullitt Bill, "an act to provide for the better government of cities of the first class." It was endorsed by the Committee of One Hundred. This bill concentrating administrative power in the hands of the Mayor, provided for a great improvement upon the old city charter. But before long the political engineers learned how to evade and construe the law in order to continue their selfish or corrupt manipulations of civic affairs.

1887–1891

In the fall of 1891, the Municipal League, a new political force, made its appearance in the city. This League won recognition as a political reform force in 1896 and functioned until the Committee of Seventy was born on November 14, 1904. It devoted its efforts to obtaining better candidates for Councils and for the county offices, and also sought to represent Philadelphia's interests in Harrisburg. Mr. Blankenburg was an active member of the Municipal League. Indeed he was a member, a worker, and a tireless supporter of all the reform political movements inaugurated in Philadelphia during his lifetime.

In 1890, Professor James MacAlister, superintendent of the Public Schools of Philadelphia, resigned to become president of the Drexel Insti-

tute of Philadelphia. Mr. Blankenburg suggested that a public testimonial dinner be given in his honor. This was said to be the first public dinner in Philadelphia to which women were invited to subscribe. About half of the guests were women. Mr. Blankenburg was a firm believer in the political equality of the sexes.

Matthew Stanley Quay, according to the *New York World*, "was one of the most sinister politicians of his day." Senator Cameron stood back of Quay; together they worked to defeat all reform movements in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. They enmeshed different members of the Committee of One Hundred until they ceased to be reformers, and finally were largely the cause of the committee's dissolution. Quay continued these practices until his death and few of the plain citizens knew of the desperate methods to which he resorted. Matthew Stanley Quay in his day was the dominating spirit of the machine known in Pennsylvania as the Republican Party.

Simon Cameron was noted for his ability to be silent about his political plans, and Matthew S. Quay was an apt scholar under Cameron. He was credited with the remarkable linquistic accomplishment of knowing how to "keep silent in sixteen different languages."

In November 30, 1894, the rumor passed

around that Quay wanted Boies Penrose to be the next Mayor of Philadelphia. This was more than the women of the city could tolerate. A committee of women citizens circulated the following pronouncement: "We, as women citizens of Philadelphia, ask for the nomination of a candidate for Mayor whose private life shows a high moral standard and whose matured character and experience in business affairs will ensure a good administration." The petition was signed by Sarah C. F. Hallowell, Anna W. Longstreth, Lucretia L. Blankenburg, and others. Several hundred names were secured, including those of many prominent men. Mr. Blankenburg had large yellow posters printed with the above statement but omitted the word "women," and added the two hundred names of those who protested. These posters appeared on the fences and billboards the Sunday morning before the nominating convention was to meet and were a subject for heated discussion. This was before the primary. It soon leaked out that Penrose was the machine candidate who was objectionable. When the nominating convention met Charles F. Warwick was nominated for Mayor.

One of the most effective fights ever conducted by Mr. Blankenburg was his organized attack on Quay in the winter of 1897–1898. That was the time when there were facsimiles of "plum

tree" telegrams and other entertaining bits of literature in circulation. The "plum tree" in the political lingo of those days was the symbol of graft and patronage. "Do thus and so," Quay once wired to a lieutenant, "and I'll shake the plum tree." What he meant was that he would distribute jobs and the people's money for his own ends.

Quay wanted Boies Penrose, then active in local politics, especially in the Eighth Ward of Philadelphia, to succeed Cameron as United States Senator. Mr. Blankenburg, who then represented the Business Men's Good Government League of which he was the founder, wanted John Wanamaker for Senator. When Mr. Wanamaker was told it would require "two hundred thousand dollars to make him the successor of Senator Cameron," he spurned the offer and entered upon an open fight. He lost, and the Legislature elected Penrose.

1891–1895

The Pennsylvania Railroad kept a representative, Mr. William Latta, on the floor of City Councils to watch all legislation which might affect that company. Mr. Latta was quoted as saying, "I am going to see that such candidates are nominated for Select Councils as shall do me a favor when I want it." Mr. Latta and

Mr. Blankenburg had some correspondence over this allegation. Mr. Latta called Mr. Blankenburg a "foreign agitator and a liar."

While addressing a ward meeting opposing Mr. Latta's candidate, Mr. Blankenburg took a pass out of his pocket, which the Pennsylvania Railroad had given a Councilman, and quoted the law, Article 17, Section 8, of the constitution of Pennsylvania which says, "No railroad, canal, or other transportation company shall grant free passes at a discount to any person except officers or employees of the road," and said, "this will open the eyes of the public to the remarkable fact that the Pennsylvania Railroad either has no regard for the fundamental law of our Commonwealth, or it has a large number of Councilmen in its employ!" This was the beginning of the end of free passes for both Councilmen and for State Legislature members.

In 1892, Mr. Blankenburg wrote an open letter to President Roberts of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in which he first charged unjust discrimination against Philadelphia in the matter of passenger rates from the West to New York. No stop-over privileges were granted for Philadelphia either coming or going on round-trip tickets. Commercial buyers from the West who wished to do business in Philadelphia were obliged to make a special trip to Philadelphia

and return to New York in order to use their round-trip tickets. The main object of the correspondence was to ask Mr. Roberts to give his personal attention to this grave injury to the largest manufacturing city in the country. This discrimination was eventually corrected as a result of the agitation started by Mr. Blankenburg.

1895–1899

It would indeed be difficult to name any great movement for the betterment of the city and its people with which Mr. Blankenburg was not in some way connected. The following will give some idea of his activities for the next two years.

He participated in the campaign to increase the salaries of the teachers in the public schools. He campaigned on behalf of John Wanamaker as a candidate for the governorship and later as a candidate for the United States Senate. Both of these efforts failed. He continued actively in the Municipal League, trying to maintain honest local elections and watch city contracts, to secure a reform ballot and to investigate the Tax Board Ripper, which also interested him.

A "Ripper," in the vocabulary of the politician, is a legislative measure designed to "rip"

out of positions officeholders who are obnoxious to the bosses; and to replace them with others who are their friends and friends of the dominant organization or machine.

In this instance it was proposed to rip out the entire Philadelphia Board of Revision of Taxes appointed under legislative act by the Board of Judges, and to fill their places with adherents of the Republican city organization, in a deal with the Democrats, who would take orders without question.

Members of the Board who were loyal and true to the machine would have an opportunity to remain, by repledging their faith and by that greatest of all tests, carrying their divisions at the fall election.

The Ripper, of which Quay approved, was declared unconstitutional by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which reversed the finding of Philadelphia Common Pleas Court No. 3. Before the local election campaign was well under way, Rudolph Blankenburg, Samuel Sartain, and others prominent in the Union ticket movement (Reform ticket) filed a bill in equity in Court No. 3 to restrain the City Commissioners from placing the Ripper candidates' names on the November ballots.

Chapter IV

"DISTURBING THE PEACE"

ON November 5, 1900, the Allied Organizations for Good Government came into life with Rudolph Blankenburg as chairman.

At this time, there was a revival of interest in municipal government, which centered to a considerable extent around the *North American*. This journal had been purchased by the Wanamaker interests and E. A. VanValkenburg, of Wellsboro, inducted into office as editor. Under his vigorous leadership, inquiries and investigations were made into each branch of the City Government. The widespread publicity which ensued was of great effect in stimulating public interest. For many years, Mr. VanValkenburg and Mr. Blankenburg were intimate friends, considering together the various policies advocated by the various reform elements.

To this new committee ex-Postmaster John Wanamaker donated $50,000 to be used in defraying the expenses of a campaign in the courts against all forms of baliot-box corruption. The committee went to work at once, as an

election was pending. The election over, members of the committee stated that the most outrageous breaches of the law had been committed in the course of the balloting. The police force with the aid of their clubs and reënforced by firemen and heelers had browbeaten the voters and intimidated them into voting as the machine dictated. About two hundred repeaters had been employed at fifty cents a vote. Hundreds of election offenders were taken to court, but only a few received punishment. The Judge of Court No. 5, in which many of the cases were tried, considered the evidence not sufficient to convict. The agents who represented the Allied Organizations for Good Government were arrested for disturbing the peace. Both the machine and the courts did their best to thwart the work of the Fraud Committee.

In summing up the work, Mr. Blankenburg as chairman said, "We feel discouraged but not dismayed." The story of the different kinds of fraud resorted to is almost too tragic for belief.

As a solution of the problem of the machine practice of putting fraudulent names on the assessor's list—which names totaled 80,000 in this case—personal registration was discussed, and later an amendment to the constitution of the state which provided for this was voted upon by the people and adopted by a large

affirmative vote in 1901. On November 3, 1902, new testimony to be added to the mass of proof that extensive registration frauds had been committed in Philadelphia was involuntarily furnished by the United States Post Office Department.

As chairman of the Allied Organizations for Good Government, Rudolph Blankenburg used the postman to expose the padded lists. He sent registered letters to the alleged occupants of houses that furnished a suspiciously large number of voters on the assessor's lists. The returns demonstrated that sixty-three per cent of these voters could not be found by the postmen, and the letters addressed to them came back to Mr. Blankenburg, unopened.

It became known that the underworld had full protection by the police and the local bosses; also, that the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety, Mr. Ashbridge and Mr. English, could not be interested in prosecuting the offenders.

1899–1903

On January 9, 1901, a mass meeting was called in the Academy of Music, at which the following statement was read:

The citizens of Philadelphia assembled in town meeting at the Academy of Music recognize that our city has fallen under the sway of the worst elements, organized

into a political machine which by its control of vast revenues, the spoils of office, and unwarranted use of police power and other agencies, afflict us with almost every form of misgovernment.

A committee was appointed to make plans. This mass meeting was not in vain, for out of it sprang the Citizens' Union for Good Government. A crusade against protected vice was inaugurated. The Law and Order Society became the detective and the prosecuting force in closing speakeasies, houses of ill fame, and gambling dens. D. Clarence Gibboney, Secretary of the Law and Order Society, reported activity in raiding and in convictions, also that the Society's next move to close vice resorts would take the form of action against the property owners.

Mr. Blankenburg aided Gibboney and stood back of the Law and Order Society. He contributed money toward carrying on the crusade which, for a time, was effective.

It was generally conceded that Mayor Ashbridge's administration was distinguished for its extravagances and graft. The treasury of the organization machine was depleted, and notes were out for $200,000. To meet these obligations the trolley-grab-bills were passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Tener. Immediately action was taken by Philadelphia

Councils granting valuable franchises to the Foerderer-Mack trolley syndicate-franchises for which John Wanamaker offered to pay the city $2,500,000. The street car and trolley management up to the time of Thomas E. Mitten's arrival in 1911 was a game of watered stock and graft with trouble and strikes. The deals of those days are still a source of many difficulties of the Rapid Transit Company over the underlying companies and their nine hundred ninety-nine year franchises.

The passage of the trolley-grab-bills by the Legislature aroused a storm of indignation throughout the state and resulted in the formation of the Union Party. Mr. Blankenburg exposed and protested against these gifts of valuable franchises. He also exposed irregular and corrupt business transactions in relation to the filtration plant and the Municipal Hospital for Contagious Diseases, which were under construction at this time. The graft collected during the construction of the new city boulevards, which he named "boodlevards," he also exposed.

John Weaver was elected Mayor in 1903. His campaign cost the machine $500,000—a large amount in those days, but Mr. Weaver soon proved a disappointment to his sponsors. He early made war on the vice conditions in the

city and tried to clean them up. He broke with the machine rulers over the gas lease which they were negotiating and sent for Rudolph Blankenburg and Francis B. Reeves, who were regarded as the shrewdest of the reform leaders to advise with him. This resulted in the formation of an advisory committee to the Mayor. The Mayor and this committee adjusted the gas lease and settled other problems. The committee's services were valuable for a time, but eventually the machine managed to entrap the Mayor and dampen his enthusiasm for reform. As a result, Mr. Weaver ceased to seek the advice of the advisory committee, and the members resigned.

During Mayor Weaver's administration, the City Party represented the reform element. There was also a state-wide organization known as the Lincoln Party, with which the City Party was affiliated. The Lincoln Party had a subcommittee of nine, of which Mr. Blankenburg was a member, to direct the aggressive work. The gas lease question had caused a sharp controversy, so much so that legal advice was secured by retaining Mr. Wayne McVeagh at a fee of $1,000.

The selection of a reform candidate for governor was another objective point of work for the Committee of Nine. Mr. McVeagh claimed to be independent in politics. If the Committee

of Nine did not know that Mr. McVeagh was counsel for the Pennsylvania Railroad they soon discovered the fact. They also charged him with being in the employ of the United Gas Improvement Company and of the Standard

PERFECTLY PROPER

"[illegible] —Mr. McVeagh's statement.

Oil Company. These corporations all supported the organization. Mr. Blankenburg publicly charged Mr. McVeagh of trying to serve two masters at the same time as legal advisor. This caused a vituperative, evasive reply from Mr. McVeagh. A number of offensive letters passed

between Mr. McVeagh and Mr. Blankenburg, but the charge was never cleared up. The cartoons shown here will give some idea of the impression these charges made upon the public.

In 1905 Mr. Blankenburg wrote a series of

WAR!

From the *Philadelphia Record*

articles for the *Arena* magazine on Quay and machine politics entitled "Forty Years in the Wilderness." These articles gave a clear presentation of the corrupt political conditions existing in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania at that time.

Chapter V

SINISTER INFLUENCES IN POLITICS

QUAY seemed to have a sinister hypnotic influence over municipal as well as over state politics. This influence gave courage and confidence to the Ashbridge-Durham-McNichol and Lane combination to ride roughshod over the people of Philadelphia. They entrenched the machine so that it has since been almost impossible to defeat its enterprises and candidates.

1899–1903

On April 5, 1901, the *Philadelphia Record* said:

Representative Cooper of Delaware County has said that there are 8,300 officeholders in Philadelphia and 3,000 more under the Federal control—1,000 of the Federal officers in the Post Office under Civil Service law—leaving 10,000 at least who owe their jobs to Ashbridge and Durham. It means that with the places properly distributed, as they are by the Mayor and Durham, they can control every city election and nominate every man they decide upon. But it means more than that because it insures enough votes to elect the ticket. If you have been keeping track of the policy of Mayor Ashbridge and his friends you have not failed to observe the system of distributing jobs so that every part of the city is covered. Each ward and each division of a ward is being

taken care of. . . . There are 10,000 votes in Philadelphia that can be regulated by patronage. To patronage add the votes of those who receive protection in carrying on illicit business of various kinds.

As time has passed the amount of available patronage has increased; the engineers have become more expert, and we have a machine that defies the efforts of God and honest citizens.

Mr. Blankenburg never ceased to make war on this machine. There were a number of men who were always ready to work with Mr. Blankenburg in his efforts to expose the shady deeds of the organization. Philip C. Garrett, chairman of the Committee of One Hundred, never lost faith in reform movements. Francis B. Reeves and John Field of the older group were special comrades of Mr. Blankenburg's.

When the Committee of Seventy came into action, John C. Winston became the leader and was a faithful apostle of reform. The Committee of Seventy devotes its efforts to investigating election frauds—and punishing the offenders for their crooked acts.

The Capitol Scandal

1903–1907

A new State House, the Capitol building, had been erected in Harrisburg at a cost of many millions of dollars. It was estimated that the

furnishings cost more than the building. The graft was so flagrant that the next State Treasurer exposed and prosecuted the offenders.

Matthew Stanley Quay had died in May, 1904, at his home in Beaver, Pennsylvania. In a niche at the top of the first flight of stairs in the main entrance in the State Capitol was placed a statue of Mr. Quay. Of this the *Evening Post*, New York, said, "It would be difficult to imagine a greater affront to a self-respecting state than the Pennsylvania Legislature's vote of $25,000 for a statue of Senator Quay. . . . A monument to a man who personified political corruption, who stole from the very treasury which is now to furnish the funds for his memorial."

Mr. Blankenburg protested against this monument but to no avail. In an address about Quay he said, "Remember the history of Marino Falieri, the Doge of Venice, who betrayed his trust. The portraits of other Doges adorn the walls of the palace; his is absent, and its space is filled by a black tablet inscribed, 'This is the place of Marino Falieri.' Will history, years hence, present to our children a similar void in the gallery of portraits of our Senators, Governors, or Mayors? God save the Commonwealth!"

The City Party in November, 1905, was successful in electing two reform candidates as

County Commissioners, Mr. Blankenburg and Edward A. Anderson, for a term of office of three years. The duties of this office are few except in the month of an election or when building of a piece of city property.

A House of Detention to be used in connection with the Juvenile Court was built by the Commissioners in 1908. Mr. Blankenburg was chairman of the commission. The *Public Ledger* of November 3, 1911, said of this work: "Another very striking manifestation of Mr. Blankenburg's achievements as contrasted with the unfulfilled promises so lavishly made to the people of Philadelphia, whenever there were signs of popular discontent with political conditions, is found in the record of the building of the House of Detention. Mr. Blankenburg, to whom the preparation of that structure was entrusted, not only did the work well within the limits of the appropriation and provided a building satisfactory in every detail, but he returned to the city an unused balance of several thousand dollars, a record that is almost without precedent in the annals of municipal contracting."

Mr. Anderson was appointed as a Judge of the Orphans' Court before his term as Commissioner expired. Mr. Blankenburg completed his term and when he counted up that he had been really busy only six months out of the

thirty-six, he decided he had not earned the salary, and so gave five thousand dollars to the Teachers' Pension Fund, to the Firemen's Pension Fund, and to the Policemen's Pension Fund. This action of Mr. Blankenburg's did not meet the approval of the politicians who claimed it was bad precedent and that others could not afford to do likewise. Needless to say, no one ever has.

The reformers now were busy selecting a successor to John Weaver. After much searching William Potter was decided upon, but Congressman John E. Reyburn was the machine candidate and he was elected.

It had come to pass, through death and the inability of some of the leaders to continue, that the organization machine so far as Philadelphia was concerned was run by Penrose, McNichol, and the Vares—locally termed the "contractors' combine." "Penrose did not want contracts," said the *North American*, "but he did want the police to be kept actively in politics, and office-holders liberally assessed to raise the sinews of war which in turn shall be used to keep the machine in power." McNichol wanted the large city contracts, especially those north of Market Street. The Vares desired the smaller contracts, particularly those south of Market Street.

Senator Penrose and his Catlin Commission were supposed to do city house cleaning. Their efforts may have been worthy, but their eyesight was poor, as little cleaning was accomplished.

These were the forces back of the Reyburn administration, 1907–1911.

Mayor Reyburn was a friendly sort of man, of good intentions. He had little trouble with the bosses, because he was their tool. He did, however, give us the $40,000 pergolas for the Parkway. He never refused an invitation to a banquet, where he usually took a nap.

In an address to the Contemporary Club about that time, Mr. Blankenburg referred in characteristic fashion to the famous pergolas. "People often ask me," he said, "what the word 'pergola' really means. I tell them that Mayor Reyburn has shown himself to be a linguist in naming these new ornaments of the City Beautiful. The word, as I see it, is derived from three languages. The first syllable 'per' is Latin for 'through'; 'go,' the second, is English; 'la' is French for 'there'—'go through there.' "

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Chapter VI

IN RUSSIA ON AN ERRAND OF MERCY

THE Citizens' Permanent Relief Committee was formed after Philadelphia's generous contribution to the flood sufferers of Germany in 1878. Mr. Blankenburg was one of the leading promoters of this organization and an active member until it was abandoned. This committee led in the relief of the victims of all great disasters including those in Johnstown, Japan, Galveston, San Francisco, Italy, and the great Russian famine of 1902.

Mayor Stuart appointed Mr. Blankenburg to supervise the distribution of the food supplies sent to Russia on the steamship "Indiana" which left Philadelphia, February 22, 1902. Some narrow-minded citizens objected to this appointment because Mr. Blankenburg was not born in the United States. Notwithstanding this objection Mr. Blankenburg did go, accompanied by his personal friend, William Grundy, of Bristol, Pennsylvania. The two paid all their own expenses and distributed the food and some cash which had been given Mr. Blankenburg for special cases.

To satisfy the critics, Mayor Stuart appointed a native-born Philadelphia committee of three to accompany Mr. Blankenburg. They traveled to St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) together. There they separated, Mr. Blankenburg and Mr. Grundy going to the famine district, while "the native-born" remained in St. Petersburg to enjoy the various banquets, and get acquainted with the effects of vodka.

It was then the custom in Russia for officials to withhold a part of such money contributions for their personal use. After much contention and through the coöperation of Charles Emory Smith, the United States Ambassador at St. Petersburg, Mr. Blankenburg succeeded in preventing the officials from collecting any graft out of his relief fund and gave it where he deemed it most needed.

This journey took many weeks. Mr. Blankenburg and his friend traveled all through the famine-stricken district, east of the Volga, journeying for days at a time in sleighs and personally superintending the work of relieving the suffering peasants.

One of the pleasant incidents of this trip was Mr. Blankenburg's visit at the home of Count Leo N. Tolstoy, while in Moscow. By arrangement he and his friend spent an evening with the family. They did not need much of an in-

troduction, as eight car loads of the flour from the "Indiana" had been shipped direct to the Count. To quote from a letter to the *Times:*

After taking off our overcoats and leaving them in the hall (it is considered quite impolite, almost rude in Russia ever to appear, even in the anteroom, with your overcoat on), we were ushered into the drawing room, and most charmingly and warmly greeted by Mrs. Tolstoy. Her appearance is quite prepossessing, her manners are the perfection of ease and grace, and if ever anyone succeeded in making strangers feel at home in a strange house, she did. She speaks English quite fluently, and after introducing us to her brother and several other persons, bade us be seated. The conversation became quite animated at once, to be interrupted in a few minutes by the entrance of Count Tolstoy.

Here is Count Tolstoy! He enters with quick, elastic step, grasps us cordially by the hand and bids us welcome to his house; you see a man of sixty to sixty-five; erect of bearing, of good height and well-built; a full beard, showing the traces of time; large, fine forehead, the seat of so many good thoughts, and such eyes!

The children of the Tolstoy family—six boys and three girls—are all linguists. The youngest, a boy of five, when asked if he spoke English said, "Yes, I speak English."

Little groups have formed by this time. The Tolstoys keep open house; their friends come and go; you hear Russian, French, German, and English spoken at the same time. The topics touched are of general interest. All is animation.

After an hour's general conversation we were invited to take a glass of tea (coffee and tea in Russia are invariably

served in glasses), and such tea as one finds only in Russia! Most of the callers had by this time departed, thus we had the pleasure of a quiet and delightful conversation with the family on topics that seemed to be of interest to all who participated. Count Tolstoy sat opposite to us, showing to the best advantage his strong, intellectual, and benevolent countenance. His conversation turned on America, and he displayed a surprising knowledge of our country, its men and measures. The first inquiry he made was about the state of health of the good old poet, as he called him, Walt Whitman. We had not then heard of his death, but knew of his hopeless condition. Had I ever met or seen him? Yes, not quite two years ago I had the pleasure of meeting and listening to him at the Contemporary Club, of Philadelphia, where in his feeble condition he was carried, dressed in his wrapper, and where he delighted the audience with a talk about Abraham Lincoln.

This was Walt Whitman's last appearance in public, his life was slowly ebbing away, and while we were talking about him, while Count Tolstoy spoke beautifully of his works, the good old poet lay dead at his humble cottage in Camden. Next he spoke of William Penn, whom he considers one of the greatest and best men that ever lived, with his gospel of peace and good will to man.

In speaking of the famine, its causes and effects on the future of Russia, the underlying thought was that the ignorance of the people is one of its main sources, and as long as the Russian peasants are either unwilling to learn, or are not permitted to adopt a sounder policy of cultivation and agriculture the danger of a recurrence of famine will exist. Count Tolstoy's open advocacy, we have been told outside of his household, of educating the masses has made him the deadly enemy of the Church; his mingling

with the peasants as a friend and teacher has drawn upon him the scorn and contempt of the powerful Russian aristocracy, who, with rare exceptions, believe that an ignorant peasant is much more tractable than an educated one.

The climax of aristocratic indignation came when Count Tolstoy, on his visits of charity and consolation to the distressed and hungry, appeared clad in the garb of a lowly person instead of in velvet and broadcloth, seated in a fine carriage with a retinue of servants to distribute his gifts; when he, rather than show himself their superior, met the poor as one who was fully alive to the fact that they had affections, sorrows and desires the same as people far above them in life. This is one of the reasons why the poor worship him, while those who will not allow themselves to know that there are poor, nurse their unkindly feelings against him until they almost hate him.

The memory left by the distress he witnessed haunted Mr. Blankenburg for months after his return home. Glimpses of his spirit and purpose are revealed in the graphic letters which he wrote to the Philadelphia newspapers at the time, and which were preserved in pamphlet form.

At a banquet given by the St. George Society, Mr. Blankenburg was a guest of honor. After listening to an address by Louden Snowden, a candidate for a local office, who told of his own birth in the United States and talked at length of the long list of his native ancestors and so forth, Mr. Blankenburg was called upon to speak. He said that his history was not similar to Mr. Snowden's. "Mr. Snowden," said he,

"arrived in Philadelphia barefoot and was not consulted about his coming. But I came here with my shoes and stockings on and because I wanted to be a citizen of the United States and make my contribution to the development of this country." Mr. Blankenburg had a keen sense of humor and a vivid imagination which helped him over many difficulties and made his addresses popular.

The financial prostration of 1893 called the Citizens' Permanent Relief Committee into action again. Many persons of a benevolent and helpful turn of mind were assigned systematically to the duties of visiting and, so far as it was possible, to administer relief and to obtain some kind of work for those distressed.

Conspicuous among these helping citizens was Rudolph Blankenburg, whose zeal in public causes always included benevolence. As he heard the stories of those whose necessities led them to borrow he determined to devote himself to rescuing the deserving from the clutches of the usurers.

Informing himself in regard to the laws, he took charge of scores of cases and helped many a family to extricate itself from overwhelming debt. He never made a demand upon usurers which they could evade. When applications grew more numerous than he could handle in

addition to his private business, he gave himself up to the work of relief. He hired offices in the Betz Building, and for some five months sat there four or five hours daily, listening with patience and sympathy to the tales of the unfortunate. He used his influence successfully in their behalf. He investigated twenty-one hundred cases, all this work being done at his own personal expense.

Thus, in the course of his investigations, Mr. Blankenburg discovered that much of the trouble was not due to unemployment but to the exactions of unscrupulous money lenders. Finding a number of such cases among people who were honest, he finally determined to force a settlement by law, compelling the lending company to accept only what it had a right to charge—the legal rate of interest, six per cent. These loan companies were not pawnbrokers who by law are allowed to charge an exorbitant rate, in all about six per cent a month. The pawnbrokers were regarded with respect, however; the others flourished under the title of "Loan Sharks." Of the thirteen loan companies, or firms, that were overhauled, it was shown that on small amounts, aggregating upwards of $14,000 and loaned for a short time, the usurious interest charged was upward of $8,000, whereas the legal interest would have been $353. Through the

efforts of Mr. Blankenburg and the committee back of him many of the companies were put out of business.

Mr. Blankenburg tried to establish a square loan company for the benefit of the poor. The capital was subscribed and the bill passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Hastings. It was understood generally that pawnbrokers' objections to the new loan company were behind the Governor's action on this occasion.

Chapter VII

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE MAYORALTY 1907–1911

THE most exciting thing that happened toward the close of the Reyburn administration was the announcement by Mr. Blankenburg that he was a candidate for the office of Mayor. William Vare and George H. Earle, Jr., were the machine candidates, and D. Clarence Gibboney and Rudolph Blankenburg, the Keystone candidates. At the primary election Earle won over Vare, and Blankenburg won over Gibboney. The contest for office between Earle and Blankenburg proved one of the most picturesque ever waged in Philadelphia. Earle was a suburban resident; hence there was a legal question about his eligibility. But he was considered a very superior man because of his experience in financial matters. Reyburn's administration had put the city in financial straits. The organization machine could find little to criticize in the Keystone candidate. Earlier in his political career, it was said, personal inquiry had been made in Germany to see if some irregularity of conduct could be discov-

ered as a reason for his coming to America, but none was found. As he was sixty-eight years old, some said he was too old to give the city good administrative services; also that he did not have the financial experience of Mr. Earle. These were the most damaging charges that could be made honestly.

The campaign began. Keystone Headquarters were opened, with George Wentworth Carr as chairman of the Fusion ticket.

The Blankenburg Platform

The candidate announced his platform as here set forth.

A greater and better Philadelphia through comprehensive plans that also shall be comprehensible and rational. Build not only for today, but for tomorrow.

A clean, progressive, constructive business administration, not for the profit and gain of the few, but for the benefit of all.

Philadelphia's development into the most prosperous and attractive manufacturing, business, and home center.

Sound education, combined with moral, physical, and technical training for our children. Commodious schools, healthy surroundings, ample playgrounds, and all attainable elements to found happiness and foster citizenship.

Only one favored contractor—the lowest responsible bidder.

A hundred cents return for every dollar expended.

No illegal or wasteful use of city funds.

Current receipts must pay current expenses; new loans for permanent improvements.

Respect for the law and its decrees.

No official should be a law unto himself, or his friends.

Protection, not prostitution, of the ballot.

Fitness, not party service, first consideration for appointment to office.

Earnest support of the Stotesbury-Mitten proposition to replace the present intolerable street-car service by an adequate, up-to-date system.

No political assessments of policemen, firemen, and other public employees. These assessments are a species of refined robbery that should be suppressed.

Candidates for office should neither be expected nor permitted to make inordinate campaign contributions.

If nominated, my contribution will not be more than if another adherent of the cause of good government were the candidate.

Money in politics is, and has been, the curse of politics. Public place should be free from the

faintest suspicion of corruption, by money or promise of place.

Invite all citizens, irrespective of party, who desire good government, to enlist in the cause. All should desire good government and willingly and cheerfully contribute personal effort and financial aid toward the regeneration of our city.

It seemed then as if the voters of the city had taken on new life. The direct uniform primary had registered the choice of the people and there was hope of an election of better city officials. An unprecedented interest developed in Mr. Blankenburg's campaign. Toward its close everybody talked politics; the women's clubs, luncheon and dinner parties discussed the candidates. There were no halls large enough to hold the crowds. Men, women, and children were interested.

The Woman's Permanent Committee for Good Government opened headquarters and sent out speakers. The public-school children formed "good government clubs" and wore badges. They dominated the playgrounds at recess and made converts to the reform cause. The speaker's committee with Mr. Blankenburg as the leader addressed noon audiences and evening meetings, often four and five a night.

At a ward meeting where Mr. Blankenburg's opponent was in the ascendancy, a woman sud-

denly rose. She was poorly dressed, and the assembled people stared as she began to speak. Hers was a pitiful story of a hunted woman—hunted by one of those fiends in human forms, the loan shark, until everything had gone, and life itself seemed not worth the struggle. Then came help—help in the form of a man, just, wise, and tender—Rudolph Blankenburg. With tears streaming down her worn cheeks, she besought her hearers to vote for this man who, without reward or profit had saved her and thousands like her from untold misery. The answer came at the polls. One day a woman appeared at both the men's and the women's campaign headquarters. At each place she took from her purse five hundred one-dollar bills. "For Mr. Blankenburg's election," she said, "and with every bill there goes a prayer!" She refused to give her name.

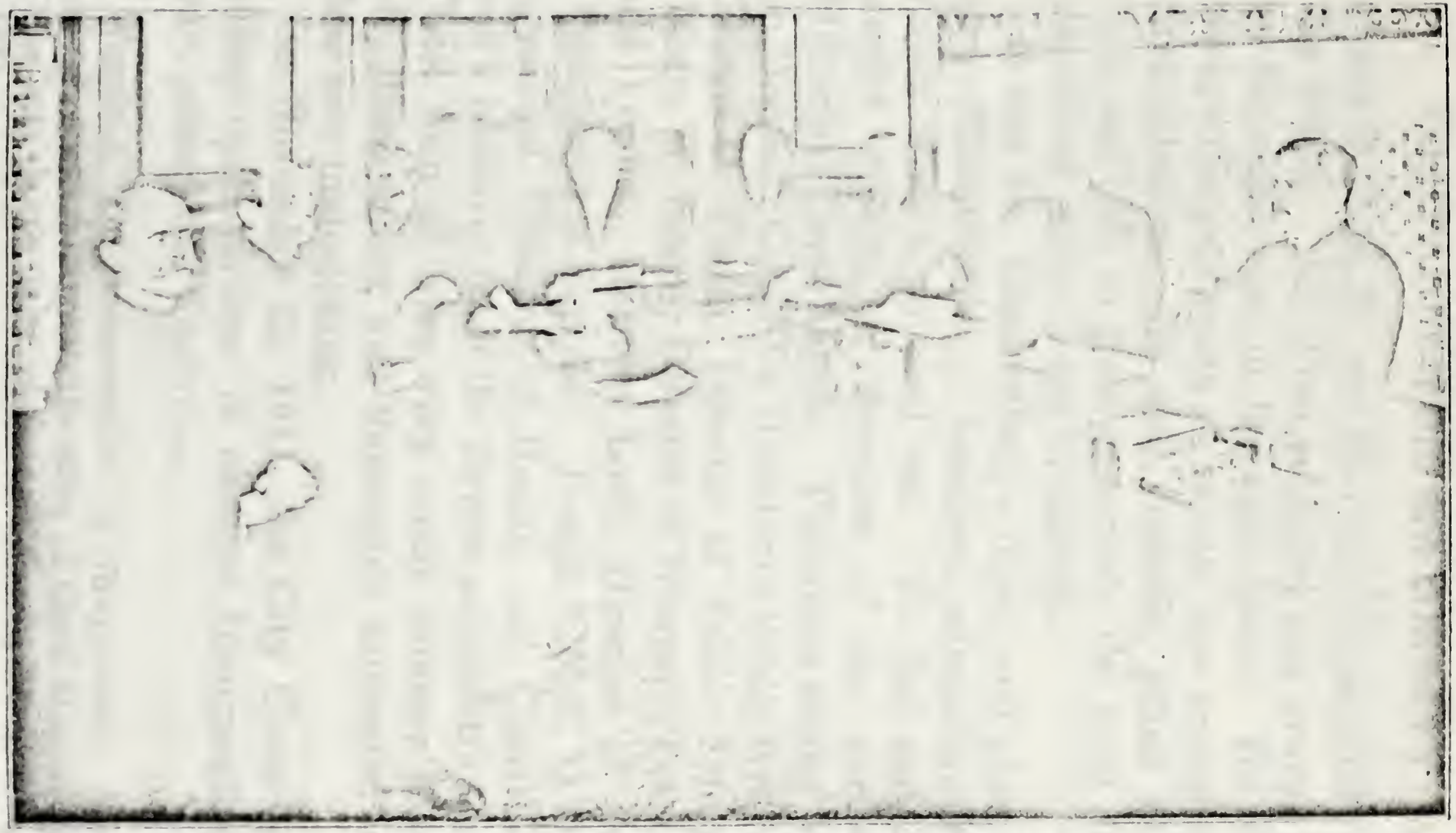
Election day came; a large vote was cast. Rumor said that the organization had stuffed the boxes with about forty thousand votes. As the returns came into City Hall the vote ran along almost even for the two candidates, Blankenburg and Earle. Toward midnight the returns were withheld because the Keystoners were in the lead. Broad Street was alive with people; City Hall pavement was crowded with friends of reform. They entered City Hall,

went to the Department of Public Safety where the returns were received, and demanded of Director Clay that he continue the reports. Under this pressure he did so and the final count showed over four thousand majority for Mr. Blankenburg as the newly elected Mayor. Then a demonstration of approval came from the multitude like a cyclone, and on toward morning Mr. Blankenburg was escorted to his home, then 214 West Logan Square, where he addressed the escort. Among other things he said that the women and children had elected him, and he gave as his motto, "It is better to serve the people than to exploit them."

The campaign was exciting and strenuous. The group of young men who formed the executive committee were enthusiastic and loyal.

They gave their services without remuneration, notably Mr. George Wentworth Carr who devoted all his time and energy to the work in hand. Mr. Blankenburg often spoke of Mr. Carr's effective work as chairman of the campaign committee and the debt of gratitude he owed him for his unselfish efforts to make his election as Mayor possible.

This new responsibility was received by Mr. Blankenburg as a trust. He soon commenced the search for men to help him—men who would serve the city rather than a political party.



THE DIRECTORS OF THE BLANKENBURG ADMINISTRATION

All the men who formed Mayor Blankenburg's Cabinet were experts in their various departments. Beginning at the left they are: George W. Norris; George D. Porter; Morris L. Cooke; The Mayor; Cyrus D. Foss; Herman Loeb; Lewis Ziegler; Merrit Taylor

Cyrus D. Foss, Jr., was his choice as secretary to the Mayor. Mr. Foss accepted and proved to be the right man in the right place. He was always the gentleman no matter how trying the circumstances. He was versatile, gifted with tact, and able to greet graciously the most distinguished caller or one in distress.

It was Mr. Blankenburg's desire and plan to give Philadelphia a business administration rather than a political one. To that end he sought experts as directors of the various Municipal Departments. The choice finally fell on Morris L. Cooke for Director of Public Works; George D. Porter, Director of Public Safety; George W. Norris, Director of Wharves, Docks, and Ferries; Herman Loeb, Director of the Department of Supplies. Joseph S. Neff, M.D., appointed Director of Health and Charities, was a holdover from the former administration. These men all were very much younger than Mr. Blankenburg and thoroughly interested in their new undertaking.

On November 23, 1911, the City Councils, calling upon citizens to observe Inauguration Day, passed this resolution:

WHEREAS, The Inauguration of Mayor-elect, Mr. Rudolph Blankenburg, to the office of Chief Magistrate of our city is to take place on Monday, December 4, 1911.

And Whereas, A Committee of Councils has been appointed to arrange for said Inauguration:

And Whereas, Some proper observance of the day will be of great interest to our citizens:

And Whereas, A public recognition should be made of the event; therefore:

Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Mayor of the City be requested to invite all citizens of our city, irrespective of party affiliations, to celebrate Inauguration Day, December 4, 1911, by a display of flags and bunting, by the ringing of bells for one half hour, commencing at 12 o'clock noon, and by the illumination of houses and stores during the evening of said day.

Attest:

(Signed) Galvin Neilson
1st Asst. Clerk Common Council

(seal)

Common Council Clerk's Office
Philadelphia
November 27, 1911

The inauguration took place on December 4, 1911, at twelve o'clock noon. The exercises were short and at their conclusion a reception was held. The Maennerchor Singers assembled in the Mayor's reception room to add their welcome in song.

Chapter VIII

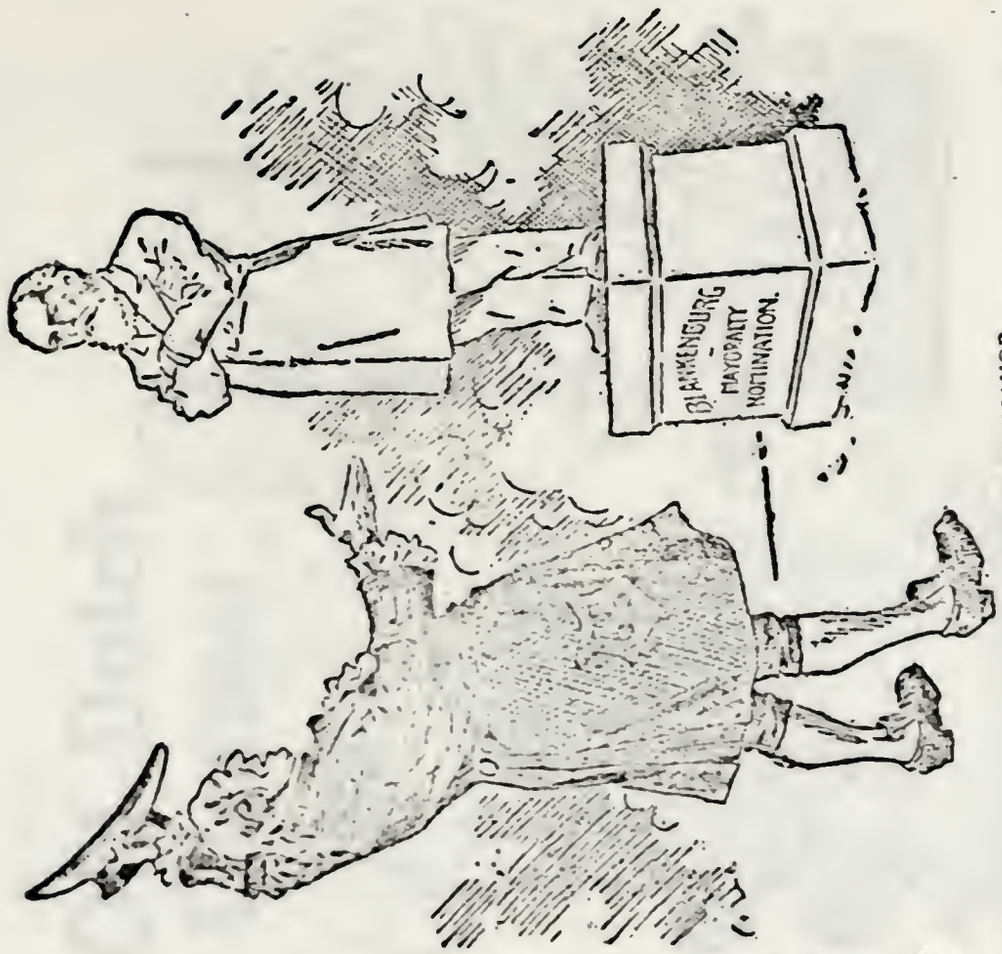
CARTOONS

THE cartoons published during the campaign and while Mr. Blankenburg was Mayor were very interesting and may be worth preserving. A few of the more notable ones follow.

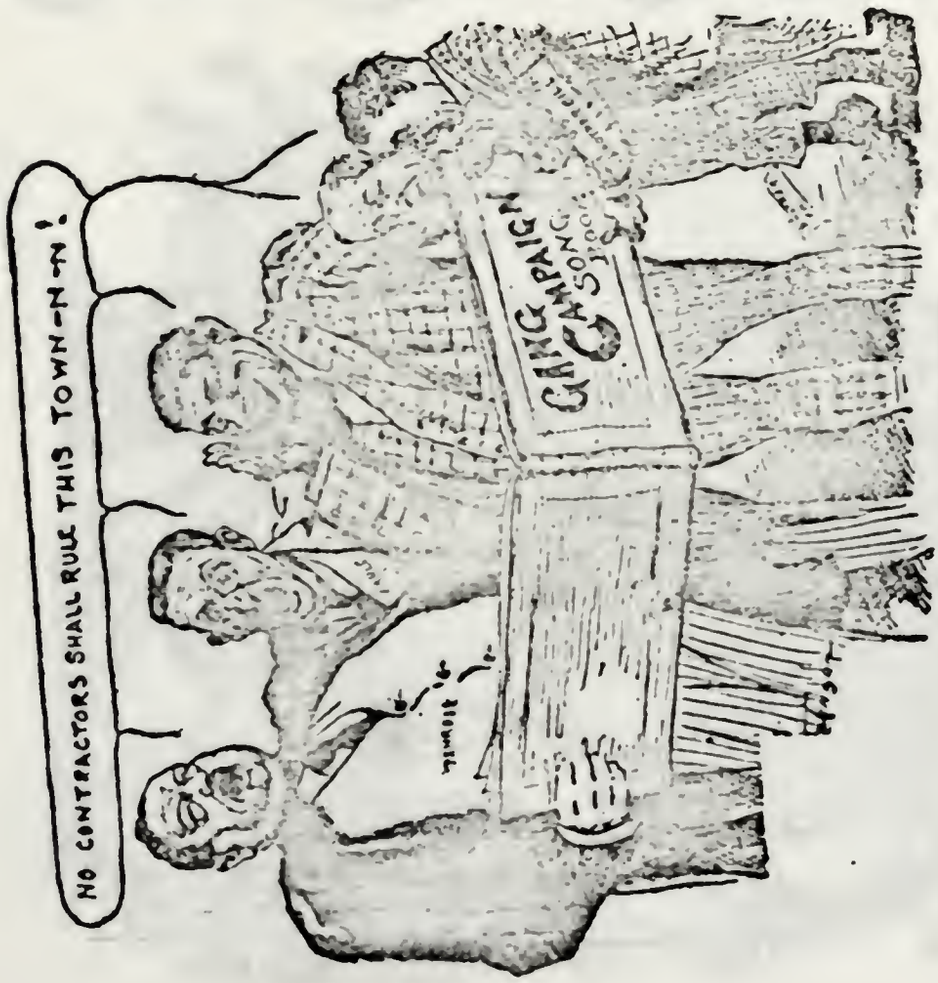
From *The North American*

THE STALLED HORSE
By Sykes. From *The Public Ledger*

DO YOU WANT HIM?
By DeMar. From *The Philadelphia Record*



THE NEXT MAYOR
By DeMar. From *The Philadelphia Record*



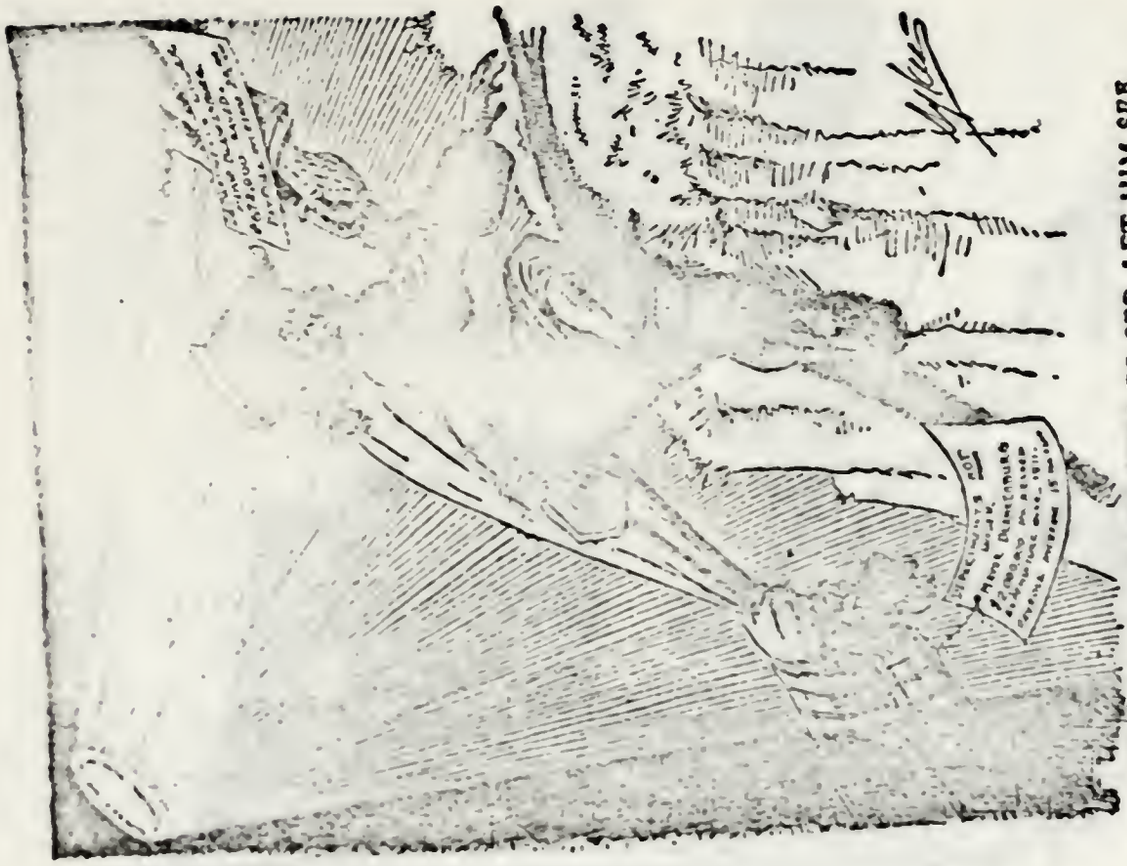
HARMONY
By Johnson. From *The North American*

FINE FOR CIVIC HOUSECLEANING

By Johnson. From *The North American*

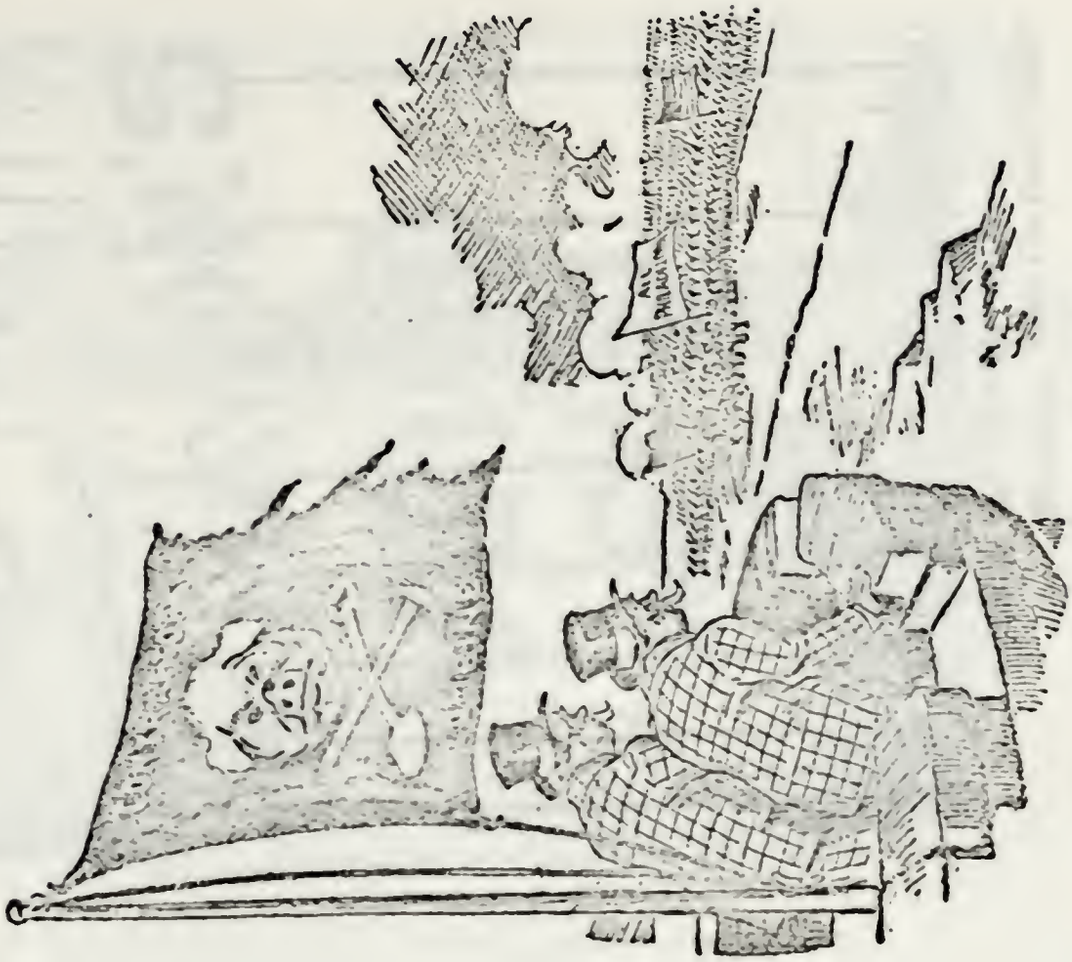
HURRAH! THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

By Johnson. From *The North American*



HE THAT HATH EYES TO SEE, LET HIM SEE
By Sykes. From *The Public Ledger*

THE CALL TO ARMS
By Sykes. From *The Public Ledger*



THE REAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE

By DeMar. From *The Philadelphia Record*

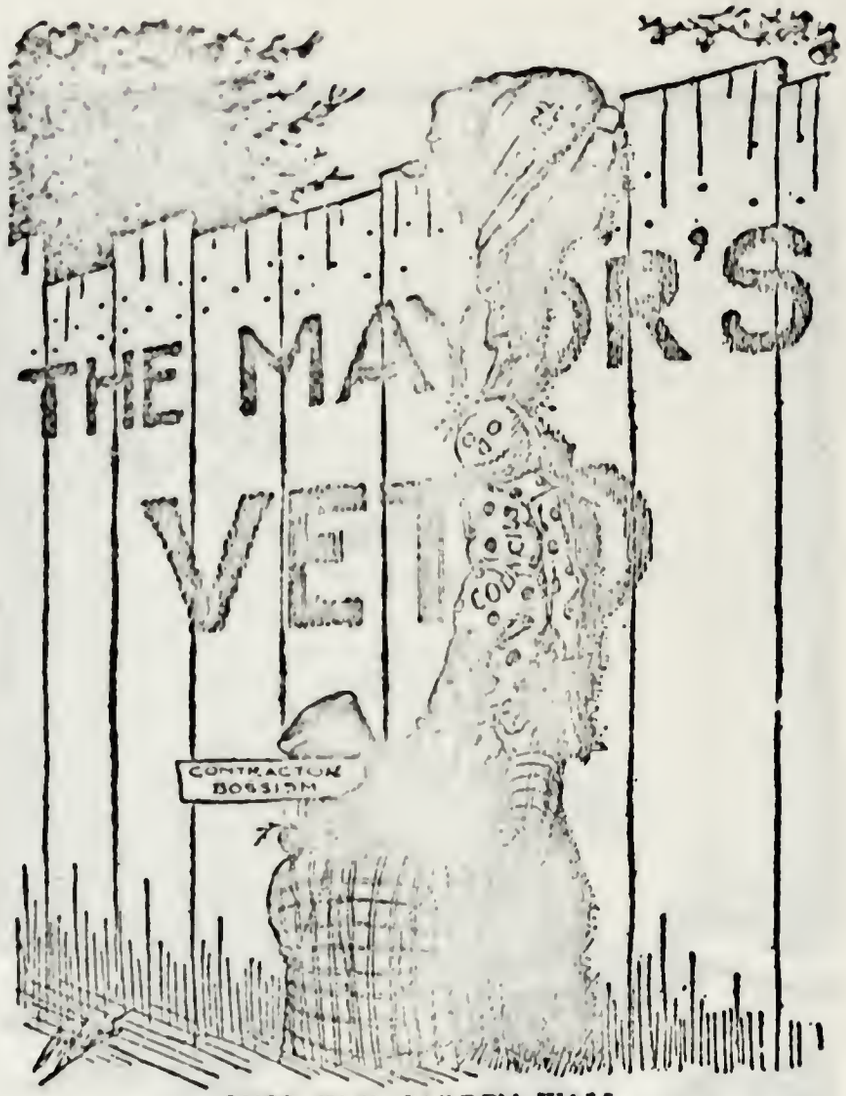
THE SPIRIT OF 1914

By Sykes. From *The Public Ledger*

His Honor the Mayor

A French conception of a son of the Vaderland who long since became a full-fledged American and now rules over a truly American city, Mayor Blankenburg is here caricatured by Rabajoi.

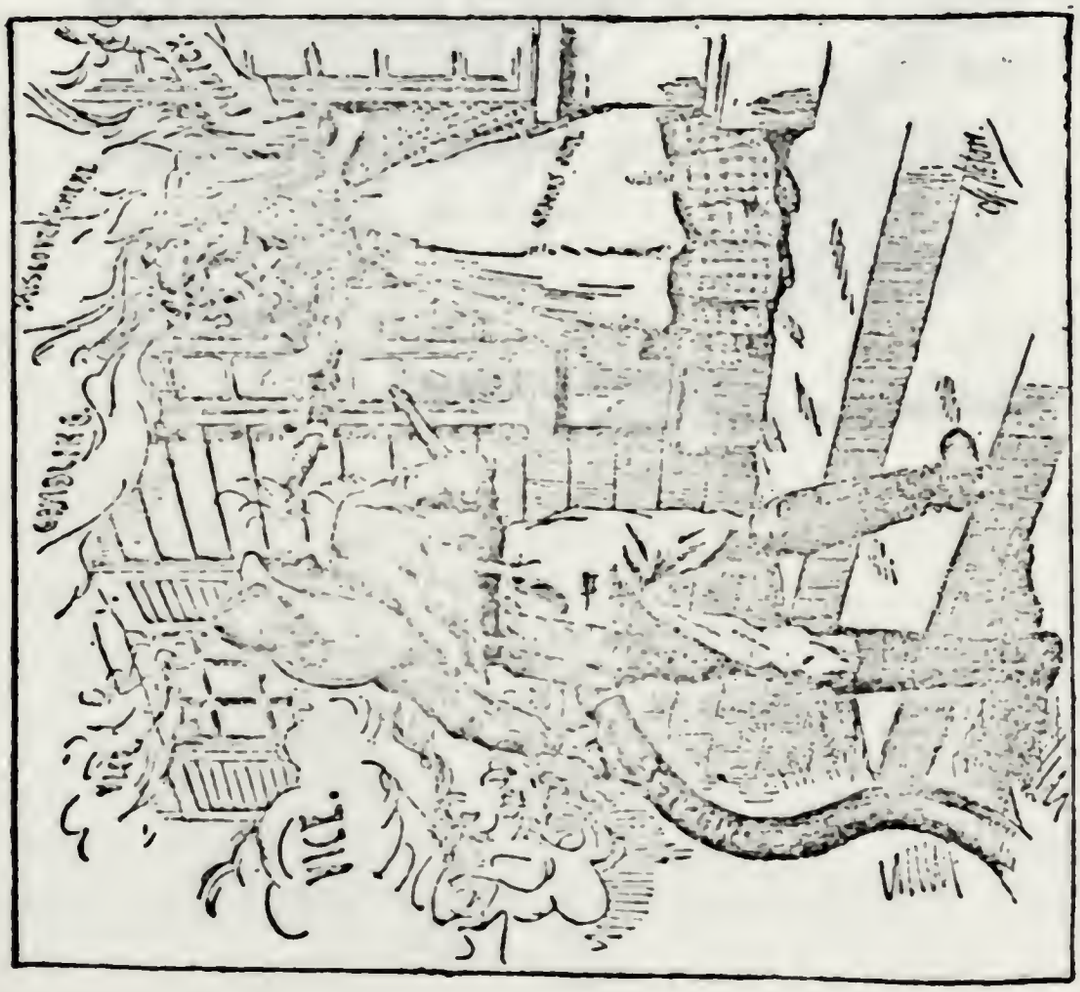
From *The Evening Telegraph*



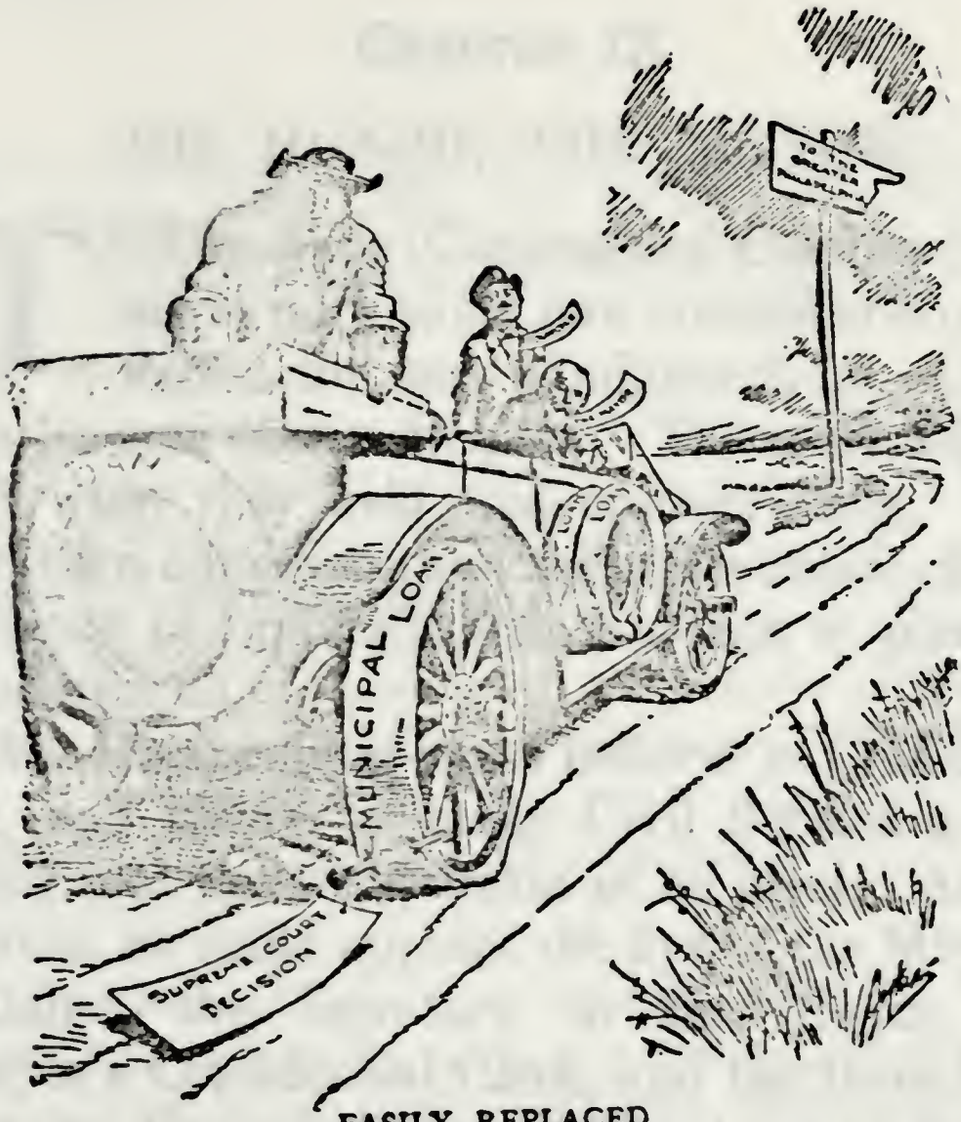
OVER THE GARDEN WALL

By Sykes. From *The Public Ledger*

WAITING FOR SANTA
By Sykes. From *The Evening Ledger*



GRANNY JURY—"DON'T! YOU'LL SPOIL THE CARPET!"
By Nelan. From *The Evening Ledger*



EASILY REPLACED
By Sykes. From *The Public Ledger*

Chapter IX

HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR

THE machine (Contractors' Combine) soon set to work to see how it could annoy and defeat the new administration. Councils became obstructionists. The most important whip they held was appropriation. The Reyburn administration had left a deficit of four millions of dollars which was not a pleasant inheritance.

Mr. Blankenburg was a believer in Civil Service, and strove to make Civil Service a real thing, not the mere dream of an ideal. As the Mayor, he could appoint the five of the Mayor's Cabinet—the Secretary to the Mayor, the Mayor's Confidential Clerk, and the three Civil Service Commissioners—without requiring of them a Civil Service examination. All the other employees down to the scrub women must and did pass the examination.

One of the first rules to be adopted as a part of a business administration, related to the hours of work in city departments. All clerks and other employees were required to be on duty from 9.00 A.M. until 5.00 P.M. except on Sat-

urday. Under the former administration the employees gave six hours only, and often not that many.

1911

As a summary of the first year's work of Mr. Blankenburg in the Mayor's office I quote from a neighboring newspaper of February 16, 1913, the following:

> Mayor Blankenburg in the past fourteen months has performed governmental wonders in the once plundered city, probably the worst plundered city in the world. He has driven the grafters out of the city's administration, emancipated the police and firemen, freed the civil employees from political assessments, purified the contract-awarding system, diminished vice, reduced expenses, made equitable the taxation assessments, improved the public health, and made the city safer and more livable for its inhabitants.

A training school was established for the police and for the firemen. A police band was organized which not only added to the *esprit de corps* of the service but earned $50,000 for the Police Pension Fund.

One of the early important tasks undertaken by the new Directors was the removal of padding from the public pay rolls. In the Department of Public Works there were more men drawing pay as political pensioners than elsewhere. The next act was the removal of those who were not

competent. These removals added to the loss of the assessments of city employees, irritated the machine organization, and increased their opposition to the administration.

The Commandant at the Philadelphia Navy Yard at League Island sent urgent complaints to City Hall in regard to the piggeries of South Philadelphia and the malarial conditions caused by mosquito-breeding stagnant water. After persistent efforts on the part of the administration to convince the Vare Brothers and their neighbors that the Navy Yard was more important to Philadelphia than the pigs, the pigs were removed.

Under the direction of Mr. Morris L. Cooke, then Director of the Department of Public Works, the meadow banks in the neglected areas near the Navy Yard were built up and sluices were opened in order that water could be kept moving, instead of becoming stagnant and dangerous to the health of the neighborhood.

When the question of facilities for the Municipal Court was brought before the City Councils, the members displayed their resentment against the Mayor and his administration by overruling the Mayor's vetoes and appropriating over a quarter of a million dollars for temporary court rooms and salaries of the new officials who were

more numerous in the Municipal Court than in the others.

Councils would not permit the Director of Public Safety to have an assistant director unless they could dictate the choice of this official. The Department of Public Health also suffered from the failure of Councils to provide for a new branch of work ordered by the Legislature and partly established by the Department. I give these two cases as examples of the many trials a reform or business administration had to contend with.

The Law and Order Society became less active, and vice ran rampant when Mr. Blankenburg undertook the duties of the Mayor's office. After a survey of the facts the Mayor's Cabinet decided that a citizens' committee should be asked to make a study of the vice conditions in Philadelphia and, if possible, suggest remedies. A very representative committee of twenty-one men and women was appointed as a commission to do this investigation. This was a tremendous innovation for Philadelphia.

The commission determined to study the problem of commercialized vice in all its phases and aspects, and to base its conclusions not upon prejudice—religious, moral, or social—but entirely upon facts as they were disclosed.

Among the most important recommendations of this committee was this: To quarantine vice by closing all evil resorts and dives and keeping them closed. On May 6, 1913, Director Porter put into operation Philadelphia's first vice quarantine. One hundred uniformed policemen were put in the Tenderloin to enforce the quarantine. This action was quite effective. Every citizen was requested to coöperate. Later four hundred police were detailed for the same service.

Several of the reform changes that Mr. Blankenburg advocated have since been adopted, the most notable being the change under the new charter in the size of Council—a single Chamber of twenty-one—now twenty-two members instead of two Chambers, consisting of over two hundred members. Councilmen now receive a salary of five thousand dollars a year where previously they served without salaries.

Chapter X

A ONE-MAN JOB BRILLIANTLY ACHIEVED

IT is often said that "Mr. Blankenburg was a good Mayor, but he did not accomplish much by way of city improvements." Of course, if Councils had coöperated with him much more could have been realized. By his careful supervision of the various city expenditures more than five million dollars was saved to the taxpayers during his administration.

The following statement of things accomplished was issued from Mayor Blankenburg's office and printed widely in the newspapers:

During his term of office, four years and one month, Mr. Blankenburg held strictly to his plan of a business administration and the following were his actual achievements when he left office.

1. Established a regular budget system for all departments (still in use).

2. Established a system of specifications for receiving and awarding bids which made collusion between officials and contractors impossible, and secured to the city full value for every dollar it expended.

3. Forced increase in interest payment by banks on city deposit.

4. Secured power to award contracts before selling bonds necessary to their carrying out, thus saving large interest charges.

5. Made important progress with Parkway work.

6. Development begun on Southern Boulevard, League Island Park, Northeast Boulevard, and Cobb's Creek Park.

7. Paved Chestnut and South Streets with wood blocks.

8. Eliminated grade crossings in South Philadelphia and Northeast Philadelphia by agreements now becoming effective.

9. Widened Delaware Avenue.

10. Completed Dock Street pier and Southwark piers.

11. Commenced building Moyamensing piers.

12. New sedimentation basin, Torresdale, planned.

13. New water-pipe system laid in West Philadelphia and South Philadelphia.

14. Pipes for subway in center of city relocated.

15. Subway work begun.

16. New housing code and reform in treatment of congested districts effected.

17. Reorganized Municipal Hospital for Contagious Diseases and General Care of the Indigent.

18. Bulkheaded Schuylkill River.

19. Extended Cobb's Creek Park and various other open spaces.

Savings on Award of Contracts

The policy adopted as to contract work not only provided for clear engineering specifications and the avoidance of trick clauses but opened the door wide to all bidders without regard either to political affiliations or the lack of them.

Notice the effect as evidenced by these four typical awards:

On Northeast Boulevard:	
Barber received award at	$369,294.00
McNichol bid	379,568.50
On Southern Boulevard:	
Hassam Paving Co. received award at	185,950.54
Vare bid	226,691.01
On sedimentation basin:	
Snare and Triest received award at	443,440.00
McNichol bid	481,280.00
On South Broad Street bridge over Belt Line:	
McMullen received award at	242,256.00
Vare bid	254,153.00

Three of these four successful bidders were not Philadelphia concerns. The high plane on which the administration contract work was conducted made bids from the outside possible for the first time in many years.

In making an award to Edwin H. Vare for the improvement of League Island Park, the bid for grading was thirty cents per cubic yard, compared with sixty-two cents paid him on previous contracts for much less difficult work.

On the last contract for the Northeast Boulevard, awarded, as shown above, to the Barber Asphalt Paving Co., the price paid for grading was thirty-eight cents per cubic yard. Price paid to the McNichol Paving & Construction

Co. for the same item on contracts let during the previous administration was only fifty-two cents!

Additional Improvements

Assessment of officeholders abolished.

Participation of officeholders in politics abolished.

Work for the city substituted for work for politicians as the test of officeholding.

Water waste reduced—per capita consumption 202 gallons in 1911; 173 gallons in 1914.

Business methods introduced, red tape and neglect abolished.

Self-respect, loyalty, and interest of municipal employees enormously increased.

Trials of police officers made open and public.

Policemen and other city employees permitted to live where they liked, instead of being obliged to live in and "run" a particular division.

Streets better paved and cleaner than ever before.

Money waste reduced by act pooling loan funds.

Development of the port made possible by Act giving city power of condemnation.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars saved by requiring owners to dedicate land for opening of new streets.

Mr. Blankenburg, Director Cooke, and Senator McNichol
The Mayor greeting Senator McNichol at the breaking of ground for the completion of the Parkway

Rate of interest on city deposits increased 2½ per cent instead of 2 per cent: $60,000 a year additional revenue to city.

Model traffic regulations established.

Three-platoon system introduced in the police force, increasing efficiency, and giving the men more time for rest and recreation.

Practical elimination of bawdy houses. Complete elimination of street solicitation and the other most objectionable features.

Suppression of lottery, gambling, and the drug traffic.

Theaters and moving-picture halls made safe for the public.

Twenty-four thousand gas lamps equipped with Welsbach burners, giving nearly three times as much light as old-style burners and installation of over 1,000 modern tungsten electric street lamps.

Annual "Clean-Up Week" established.

Music of municipal bands improved, and community singing and dancing introduced.

Great improvement in the architecture of bridges, public buildings, etc.

Police and patrol stations greatly improved.

Fire hazard reduced—nearly a quarter of a million danger spots eliminated.

Motor-driven fire apparatus introduced.

Boiler-inspection service so improved that

with 7,500 boilers in active operation there was not an explosion in Philadelphia in several years.

Lighting, cleaning, and heating of City Hall improved, and cost of this service greatly reduced. Dangerous elevators made safe.

Number of city poles in streets reduced one-half, and over 200,000 feet of underground ducts laid.

Three hundred miles of fire-alarm wires placed underground.

All water bills and the office records of water charges made on typewriting machines instead of in long hand as previously. This economical change has been made as to city personal property and school-tax bills this year, 1928, fifteen years later.

A rate case instituted in 1913 before the Public Service Commission against the Philadelphia Electric Company resulted, three years later, in an annual reduction in public and private electric bills totaling $1,050,000. The City Treasury was given nearly $200,000 in cash recovered from the Company. The whole expense of conducting the city's case amounted to less than $45,000.

The Naturalization Convention

In the latter part of the year 1914, it was discovered that there were pending between five

and six thousand applications of aliens resident within the jurisdiction of Philadelphia court awaiting naturalization. Special arrangements were made to facilitate action on these applications and during seven weeks from March 22 to May 7, 1915, hearings were held and 3,940 petitions were passed upon. The Mayor, following the suggestion of the Secretary of Labor, arranged for a public meeting to be held May 10 as a Naturalization Reception. With each man's papers a card of invitation was inclosed for the new citizen and his family. An immense audience assembled at the then Convention Hall to be welcomed by the Mayor, the Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson, Judge Buffington, and Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States. The meeting introduced a new and graceful method of recognizing and welcoming our new citizens.

The address made by Mayor Blankenburg on that occasion will be found in Book Three.*

The Bell Goes West

Some months previous to the opening of the Panama Exposition at San Francisco, California, in 1915, a Committee of Citizens headed by a woman school-teacher, Mrs. Emma Doane of San Francisco, called on the Mayor and pre-

* See Book Three, page 173.

sented a petition signed by half a million school children of San Francisco, asking that Philadelphia lend the Liberty Bell to the Exposition which was organized to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. Mrs. Doane was received by the Mayor who expressed himself as favoring the project. The petition, three miles long, was rolled on a reel, mounted on an auto truck, and taken to the Mayor's office.

In May, 1915, Councils agreed to let the bell be taken across the country, and appropriated some $30,000 for the trip. The bell was carefully examined and prepared for the journey. Many objections were made, some contending that the precious relic would be damaged by such a journey, but the bell was braced on the inside and otherwise prepared so that it arrived in San Francisco in good condition. July 17 was set apart for Liberty Bell Day at the great Exposition. The following letter from the Mayor of San Francisco will tell of the stay of the bell:

MAYOR'S OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO
November 10, 1915

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor's Office
Philadelphia, Pa.

DEAR MR. MAYOR:

With the departure of the Liberty Bell from San Francisco, where it has created widespread interest and at-

tracted so much attention, and where it has so deeply stirred our feelings of patriotism, I take pleasure in saying a word of commendation of the courtesy and efficiency of the four officers of your Police Department, Messrs. James J. Quirk, Joseph W. Frank, James Jackson, and William E. Sykes, who have been the constant guardians of the bell while it has stood in the Pennsylvania Building at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Not only thousands, but millions of persons have passed through the building, viewing the bell and receiving its inspiration. Countless questions have been asked of the officers in charge, while they guarded the bell as the representatives of your city.

I have had many occasions for personally observing their tact and patience in handling the great Exposition throngs, and wish to compliment the Police Department of your city on the excellent work of its four sturdy representatives.

I am giving this letter to Liberty Bell Guard James J. Quirk, and have asked him not only to present it to you in person, but to present to you also my best wishes and expressions of sincere regard.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) James Rolph
Mayor of San Francisco

The bell returned just before Thanksgiving, 1915, in as good condition as when it started, after a trip of ten thousand miles. A special train carried it and the Councilmanic Committee. The route of travel covered many towns and cities where thousands of people, school children and grown ups, paid homage to the

Liberty Bell. Letters of appreciation came from many of these places thanking the Mayor for the great opportunity that had been theirs on this occasion.

The City Club, in coöperation with Director Cooke, arranged in May, 1913, for a pilgrimage to the University of Wisconsin at Madison. This University has been a leader in trying to take education to the people—such education as will help the individual citizen to get greater returns by increased production from his outlay of time and energy. The pilgrims included in their number the Mayor and his wife with a few of the City Hall assistants and representatives of forty different organizations—one hundred twenty-one in all. The pilgrims decided that the four days spent in Madison had been of great value. We gained an insight into the methods of instruction which had proved so beneficial to Wisconsin. We were entertained morning, noon, and evening. The instruction halls, the laboratories, the experimental stations, and the clipping bureau were all opened for our inspection. President Van Hise of the University made us welcome, as did Governor McGovern of Wisconsin.

Chapter XI

THE MEN WHO HELPED

IN 1912, the Mayor selected Mr. A. Merrit Taylor as Transit Director—a new office created in the city government. The budget of 1911 had not provided for this new member of the official family, but Mr. Taylor offered his services as a dollar-a-year man. This generous offer was accepted, and he commenced to study the proposed new subway plans. Many troubles awaited him, but he remained with the administration until the end and accomplished much valuable work.

In 1911 the Directors of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company engaged Thomas E. Mitten, an expert transit man, to come to Philadelphia to reorganize the city system of rapid transit, which was on the brink of bankruptcy, with the employees on a strike. Mr. Mitten has had many trials and disappointments but Philadelphia today has the best known transit system. The employees are well paid and happy; they have become part owners of the Rapid Transit stock and of the Mitten Bank. Mr. Mitten has, I believed, solved the problem

of capital and labor so far as their contentions are concerned, by his coöperative plans.

The Mayor by virtue of his office and two citizens appointed by Councils become members of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company Board of Directors with each new administration. Their duty is to guard the city's interests.

The machinery of the executive department of the city government went on through these four years with some improvements being adopted all the time. The Director of Public Safety, George D. Porter, left no stone unturned to elevate the morale and condition of the police. He recognized their faithful service and organized reunions and social gatherings to encourage higher ideals of work and living.

Herman Loeb, the Director of Supplies, was most untiring in his efforts to buy good materials of full weight and measure without graft. His savings were enormous, and would have been even greater if he could have purchased in larger quantities. There being no storehouse, he was obliged to buy the supplies day by day.

Morris L. Cooke, the Director of Works, gave scientific and intelligent service as an engineer. He obtained the assistance of numerous experts to help him with the city's problems. The results of this work were excellent, but were

criticized because not all of the experts called in were born and raised in Philadelphia.

George W. Norris, the Director of Wharves, Docks, and Ferries, really gave his services to the administration, as he used his salary to help the other departments to secure things, or people not covered by the department appropriations from Councils and so made their work more efficient and effective. Mr. Norris was a valued counselor in cabinet meetings.

The Health Department had three heads during Mr. Blankenburg's administration. These changes did hinder the progress of the department, but much good work was accomplished, although Councils did not respond to the needs of this department as the directors desired.

After these years of experience in office, Mr. Blankenburg advocated a small council or legislative body, elected at large, and not by wards or districts with the executive authority in the hands of a Mayor who should make all appointments and be responsible for the proper performance of all executive functions. He also advocated a City Manager.

So far as possible the Mayor tried to fulfill his preëlection promises. He regretted especially his inability to fulfill one promise—that of eighty-cent gas which would have meant a reduction of twenty cents per thousand to the

consumer and a loss of $1,800,000 rebate in the city income. This resulted from the attitude of Councils toward the new administration and the city's financial needs.

This reduction in the price of gas was a reform which E. A. VanValkenburg, editor of the *North American*, urged and insisted upon. Mr. Blankenburg's failure to sign the bill authorizing it caused a bitter editorial attack in the "N. A." which Mr. Blankenburg felt to be very unjust under the circumstances and from which a coolness resulted that was never overcome.

There was frequent talk about harmony between the legislative and executive bodies, but it never was established. A business administration meant a thorny path for the Mayor. The most irritating thorn was the chairman of Council's finance committee who did everything in his power to prevent the advancing of new projects, or successful support for those already in hand.

Notwithstanding the opposition of the political machine it was generally admitted by everyone that the city had experienced a material, a moral, and a mental advance during the Blankenburg administration that cannot be valued in mere dollars and cents. An object lesson was given to the citizens of Philadelphia which, it is believed, will sooner or later bear fruit.

The honors and the invitations to speak or to dine that came flowing in during those years were so numerous and so expressive of the love of the people that the Mayor found he was not able to attend to his official duties and respond to the calls of the public. This was a disappointment that could not be avoided.

Chapter XII

AN INTERNATIONAL PRE-VISION

DURING the period of Mr. Blankenburg's official service to the city, many distinguished visitors from other states and from abroad came to learn about the reform business administration. Many important events also occurred, among which were the Conference of Mayors, which resulted in the formation of the Utilities Bureau for giving expert advice to cities and towns in regard to municipal affairs; the International Engineers Convention; the International Medical Convention consisting of some one hundred seventy foreign delegates, and the Pan-American Conference.

The International Engineers' Convention was of such magnitude and importance that President Taft came to Philadelphia to make an address and give the delegates welcome. Mr. Blankenburg welcomed the city's guests in three different languages—French, German, and English. As he returned to his chair which was next to that of the President, Mr. Taft commented upon the Mayor's welcome and said, "I would give anything to be able to do what you have done!"

In May, 1915, the Latin American Republics sent delegates to a conference which was held in Washington, D. C. The object of this conference was to bring about more friendly understandings among the various peoples and governments of this continent, as well as a deeper sense of mutual confidence in commercial affairs between the United States and her neighbors. Mr. Blankenburg invited the delegates to come to Philadelphia and continue the "get-acquainted" idea. The meetings were held in Independence Hall. Following an address made by the Mayor a Declaration of Interdependence was unanimously adopted by the assemblage.

The Mayor said:

There was conflict of interest in 1776, and I especially wish to call your attention to the similarity in existing conditions of those days between the colonies, and in these days, between the nations. There then were two parties as there are today.

(1) The conservative group, who desire to keep things as they are and do nothing to eliminate the causes of strife and war, but will look to healing troubles and difficulties after they have arisen. As is the case today, this party was then represented by the satisfied, wealthy element in the community who wanted simply a court to enforce then-existing policies and was afraid to trust the people with a representative congress that should have the power to change those policies.

(2) The radical group which insists that everything shall be determined by force. One hundred thirty-nine

years ago this element existed in the younger but rapidly growing sections of the country, who objected to having rich states, like Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia control the destinies of our country forevermore.

The result of the deliberations which took place in this hall was a happy solution through a rational combination of the two parties. It was agreed that all treaties between the colonies should be eliminated and a representative body should be elected to make the law and change the policies whenever it seemed advisable. This satisfied the radical group and gave the younger colonies assurance that, as they grew, their proportional influence would be recognized.

To conciliate the conservative element, a high court was then decided upon, as also, through popular election, the creation of an executive with power enough to enforce the agreement arrived at.

As I look at you honorable gentlemen this morning, representing these thirteen nations, some large and powerful, some small but full of life and spirit, I cannot help thinking that the nations can only be brought together by the formation of an inter-nation, which will not attempt to keep the world in *status quo*, but will give equal security to the weak as well as the strong. In other words, is not our future development going to be along this line, repudiating both forceful aggressiveness and and the inane *status quo* doctrine?

It is with this in view that I will now read you this Declaration of Interdependence which carries out the same thought and conforms largely in the same words to the original Declaration of Independence, which was signed in this room and on this very table one hundred thirty-nine years ago.

Declaration of Interdependence

At various times in the course of human events it has become necessary for men to combine for mutual protection and welfare. Thus far such movements have been within nations; but it has long been felt that the time would come when all the nations must unite for one grand purpose.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all nations are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these is the right to protect and develop the life, liberty, and happiness of their peoples; that to secure these rights customs have become established among nations, deriving their sanction from the consent of the nations. Such customs are intended to enable the nations of the earth to carry on international affairs and commerce in harmony. When, however, existing customs fail to accomplish these ends, it is the right of the nations to alter or to abolish them, and to institute an inter-nation, shaping its powers in such form as shall seem to them most likely to effect their safety, happiness, and prosperity.

Customs long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience has shown that mankind is more disposed to endure while evils are endurable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they have been accustomed. But when established usage has failed to preserve harmony among the nations, to secure them from assault by their neighbors, and to afford full opportunity to all nations for human and material development, then it is the duty of the nations to organize a representative inter-nation, with power to make and to enforce international law.

We, therefore, citizens of many nations, assembled without representative authority but as men and brethren, declare that the same principles of coöperation and

democracy which prompted our brethren to meet in Philadelphia one hundred thirty-nine years ago, are fundamental and should be applied to dealings between nations as at that time to dealings within a single nation; that the same spirit which then enabled thirteen separate colonies with independent armies, tariffs, postage, and other sovereign functions to form a political union, will now enable thirteen or more nations to inaugurate a new form of union.

We repudiate both the spirit of forceful aggression and the *status quo* doctrine. We declare our belief that the happiness of one people cannot be founded on the unhappiness of another, nor can the prosperity of a nation be built on the ruins of a weaker state. We hold that there must be equality of opportunity for nations as for individuals, and that the seas must be free for all nations. We recommend, as a first step toward attaining this end, the establishment and use of an international flag. We most earnestly hope that the head of some great government will soon call the nations together to decide what purposes and forms of activities can immediately be protected by such a flag. We believe the need is so great at this tragic time that all people will unitedly respond.

Gentlemen, in closing, I urge those of you who have this wider vision not to be discouraged because some of our brethren have not yet the courage to come forward. The story goes that some of the signers of our famous Declaration of Independence did not affix their signatures until several years later, after the war was over. So, you see, human nature was then the same as it is now.

The story further goes that Benjamin Franklin (who was one of the leading Philadelphia delegates) saved the day by pointing to this chair, in which your distinguished chairman sits. You note at the top of the back of this

chair, a carved figure representing the sun halfway above the horizon. Our great statesman, Franklin, at the close of the meeting, when there seemed to be no agreement among the delegates, turned to this chair and said, "Gentlemen, I am wondering whether the maker of this chair meant for this sun to be a rising sun or a setting sun. Further," continued Franklin, "I am wondering whether our sun is setting or rising."

Gentlemen, let me close my remarks by likewise referring to this same chair. It seems as if the nations of the Americas are in the same position today as were those colonies one hundred thirty-nine years ago. The people of all the Americas are thinking of you today here in Independence Hall and on your decision may the future of the Americas depend. Let us decide the question as did those delegates one hundred thirty-nine years ago and determine that it shall be a rising sun, for the world's future history will be largely written and determined on this great continent of ours, All America! Let us be equal to the task so "peace on earth" and good will to men may be firmly established and forever endure!

The time came, years later when, after the unexampled losses and suffering of the most calamitous of all wars, the highest hopes of all civilization hung on the promise of such a league of peoples as Mr. Blankenburg seemed to foresee in this address at Independence Hall.

This year, 1928, our own great government gave its aid and sanction to plans for the closer and friendlier Pan-Americanism which Mr. Blankenburg believed necessary to the progress of peace and freedom now and in the future.

Chapter XIII

THE GOSPEL OF AN AMERICAN

DURING the forty years of Mr. Blankenburg's career many posts of honor and degrees were bestowed upon him. The German Society chose him as their president for several years. The German Hospital elected him a director, which office he filled for a time. He joined The Union League in the early days of his work and soon was elected a life member. He was a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and of the New Century, Five o'Clock, Contemporary, and City Clubs of Philadelphia.

In 1914 he received the degree LL.D. from Lafayette College; from Dartmouth in 1915, and from Ursinus College in 1915. Upon bestowing this degree, the President of Dartmouth said: "Rudolph Blankenburg, notable lover of men and children, sweetener of the sour places in public life with genial sympathy and humor; stalwart, loyal, self-sacrificing citizen; ardent patriot; an honor to the land of your adoption; outstanding in these trying days as a high example, not to your compatriots alone, but to

all foreign and native-born Americans: I admit you to the degree of Doctor of Laws."

Mr. Blankenburg was a frequent contributor to the newspapers and magazines. Just a few days before he left us he wrote an article in regard to the German-Americans and the World War. He kept well posted in current events and enjoyed magazines and books.

The World War was of absorbing and sad interest to Mr. Blankenburg. The following are his expressed views on the duty of the hour for all citizens of German birth, made shortly after the severence of diplomatic relations between this country and Germany.

Our Country

By Rudolph Blankenburg, ex-Mayor of Philadelphia

In this hour of stress and strife it behooves all citizens of German birth or descent to declare their unflinching allegiance to the country of their adoption and to show by word and deed that they are true and unfaltering Americans. Deeply distressed as we are that the century-old friendly relations between the fatherland and our great Republic have been severed, much as we deplore the circumstances that have led to this unavoidable step, our duty is plain. We have sworn troth to the flag and we shall follow the flag.

We sought a home in the New World and found it. We were invited and welcomed under the Declaration of Independence, under the Constitution, and under laws that assured us equal rights with those who had come

before us. Now let us show that we are worthy of this high privilege, that we are worthy of American citizenship.

On attaining citizenship we foreswore fealty to the potentate under whose scepter we were born, a fealty which we disowned, for we abhorred being slavish subjects of king or prince when liberty beckoned us from beyond the sea and offered us equality among all men. This, therefore, is our home, the country of our choice.

We still love the country of our origin, we cherish the old fireside, the ties of affection and friendship that bind us to family and home. We hope and pray that erelong peace shall return and that good will shall take the place of enmity and contention in this world.

To our President and to our common country we send greetings. Our acts will show how we condemn and scorn the "hyphen" so unjustly bestowed upon us as a class. We are not German-Americans, but Americans of German birth or descent, and as Americans we shall live and, if need be, die.

Mr. Blankenburg addressed a town meeting, October 9, 1917, in the Academy of Music. He was feeble in body, but strong in his statements in regard to the Smith administration which followed his. The cowardly assassination of an officer in the Fifth Ward because he was doing his duty on election day was the subject of the climax of his address. This was his last speech in Philadelphia, but later in the fall he made a short address in Germantown in regard to the World War and the part the American Germans should take in the United States.

Chapter XIV

THE PASSING OF A GREAT REFORMER

MY story so far has been of Mr. Blankenburg's public career. As a son, a husband, and a father he was happy, generous, and kind. When the future looked bright he wrote to his father in Germany, who was several years older than his mother, that he was now in a position to help take care of his mother and invalid sister, should the need arise. For a number of years after his father's death he provided for them; he also helped his brothers. Of him as a husband, let me say, we lived together in peace for fifty-one years. While our points of view were frequently different, we managed that by an agreement to disagree. As a father he was very happy in the love and care of his little girls; the greatest sorrow of his life came with their loss.

Mr. Blankenburg held my parents in respect and love. We made our home with them until the time came for them to live with us; the combination never ceasing to be interesting and satisfactory.

The city took our home, 214 West Logan

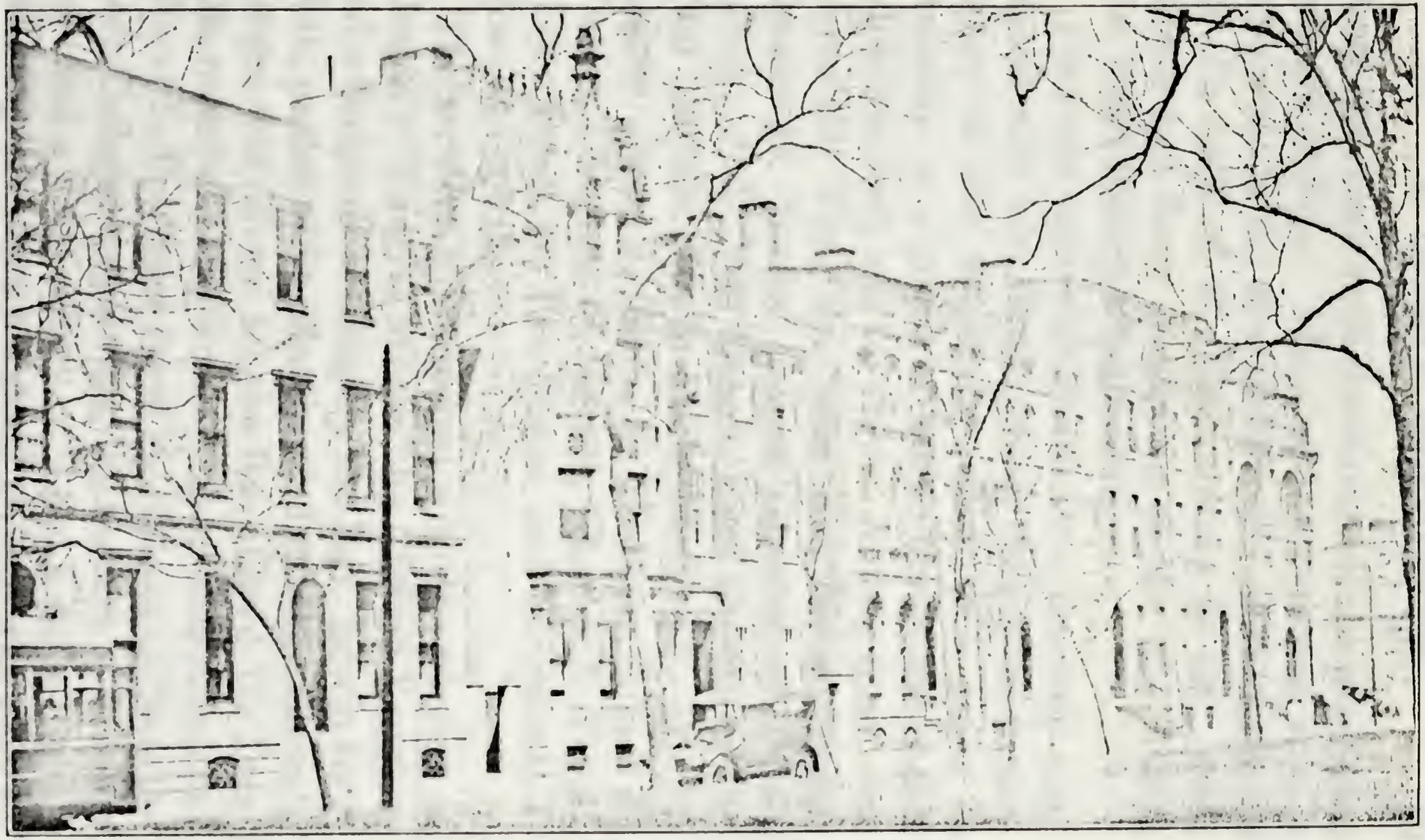
Square, in 1917, but we found a comfortable furnished house in Germantown where we spent the last months of Mr. Blankenburg's life.

He passed into rest the morning of April 12, 1918. On April 15, Philadelphia paid a last tribute of respect to the memory of Rudolph Blankenburg, former Mayor and eminent and respected citizen.

For more than three hours Mr. Blankenburg's body lay in state in the Arch Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Broad and Arch Streets. In that space of time more than 6,000 persons of every class and description passed before his bier. Men in the trappings of fashionable mourning, frock coats and top hats, and men and women in the garments of the poor and humble, visited the church.

Judges, lawyers, business men, physicians, former state officials and politicians were in the line, which extended down Arch Street to Thirteenth, just as the church doors were opened. The Republican City Committee, headed by Senator Edwin H. Vare, went to the church in a body.

The casket was carried into the church at 11.30 A.M. More than one hundred policemen were on hand to keep back the crowd which was waiting outside the church. As soon as the doors were opened the crowd flocked in and



THE CITY HOME OF THE BLANKENBURGS

In 1894 Mr. Blankenburg purchased 214 W. Logan Square (the first house on the left). For twenty-three years this was the home of the Blankenburg family, until the city took it to make room for the Parkway

from that time until three o'clock the procession seemed endless. Many of the men and women who went to the church formerly were employed in the mills of R. Blankenburg & Co., while others had been employees of the city during the Blankenburg administration.

Fourteen men who had been intimately associated with Mr. Blankenburg during his incumbency of the mayoralty office took turns in standing as a guard of honor about his casket while the body was on view. Among these were Cyrus D. Foss, Jr., who was his secretary; George D. Porter, former Director of Public Safety; J. B. Van Dusen, Emil Guenther, Dr. Paul Sartain, Emil Michelbach, Dr. W. H. Ziegler, James J. Quirk, F. M. Riter, Albert E. Turner, Clarence L. Harper, Charles Z. Tryon, Major Lewis H. Van Dusen, and Lieutenant J. Howard Gaskill.

The services were opened with the playing of Chopin's "Funeral March" by Clifford Vaughan and a Scripture reading by the Rev. Edwin Heyl Delk, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, rector of Holy Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church. Professor Jesse H. Holmes of Swarthmore College representing the Society of Friends delivered a short eulogy. "Lead Kindly Light" was sung and then a second tribute was paid to

the memory of Mr. Blankenburg by Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols, president of the New Century Club. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Virgil E. Rorer, pastor of the church in which the services were held.

Mr. Blankenburg's body was cremated.

James J. Quirk, who served as Mr. Blankenburg's bodyguard while he was Mayor, and who was not only a guard but a devoted friend, stood at the head of the casket while it lay in the church.

The city flags were kept at half-mast for thirty days and the newspapers far and near gave biographical accounts of "the Old War Horse of Reform" as Mr. Blankenburg was affectionately called by his coworkers. Many tributes were paid to his memory by public men everywhere.

Senator Vare, one of the Contractors' Combine of Philadelphia, said, "Mr. Blankenburg's career was one of sterling and recognized honesty. I knew him as a reformer since I came of age, and in all that time I never knew him to do anything that did not bear the stamp of sincerity. Like most reformers, he did not always use the best means to reach the ends he had in mind. Even men who differed with him in politics gave him full credit for wanting to better municipal conditions. He was a highly

respected citizen, and as Mayor did his best. The city loses a good, honest man."

The following editorial items are from the local newspapers:

The life of Rudolph Blankenburg was an object lesson to the youth of this country. It was a life of ceaseless effort that brought full measure of success in business, enviable reputation in politics, and warm friendships in every class of citizenship.

Very few men have left the mayoralty of Philadelphia with as much good will as followed him into his retirement, a little more than two years ago, or have been carried to the grave in the midst of a more sorrowful sense of loss than now attends his death. It is the sense of loss of a brave and picturesque old character in the life of our town these many years—one whom most of us liked and appreciated even when it was necessary to admonish or reprove him, knowing, as we all did, the sterling good that was so abundantly in him. Now that he is gone, he is to be remembered not alone as a good man and an upright Mayor, but as the citizen who truly valued the privileges of democracy as both a duty and a joy.—*Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia.

He was a born agitator, whose agitation was directed along sane lines. Moreover, he was hearty, genial, good-humored—as pleasant and companionable a man as you know, and a whole heap of fun at a dinner. Unlike many reformers, he was sincere. Unlike many lovers of humanity, he really did want to do things for his fellow man instead of for himself. A very genuine and an exceedingly lovable person was Rudolph Blankenburg—and a big figure in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.—*New York Evening Post.*

Another editorial states of Mr. Blankenburg:

He was a winning combination of simplicity, genuineness, shrewdness, courage, and vigor. He was alive. He was as human as any boss and honest in the bargain. The two qualities were no more commonly associated in Philadelphia than in New York or Chicago, and they made Blankenburg unique. The circumstance that in national politics he was a Republican had its value. It is not easy for many respectable Philadelphians to vote for a Mayor unless he believes in a duty on steel rails.

Blankenburg was persistent and he was human. This is why he was dangerous to the bosses. His possession of the double endowment made him too much like them for their own safety. They knew that as surely as the next campaign came around, the "old war horse" would be on their trail if he were living, with abundant energy and overflowing enthusiasm. There was something about him that kindled those he touched. At sixty he was as young as at forty. One would as soon have thought of calling him cowardly as suggesting that he was "cold." His human qualities displayed themselves in different ways from those that bosses have found profitable.

Patriotism with Mr. Blankenburg was as a religion. "Do right and fear no one" was his slogan. When his friends suggested that the office of Mayor was too arduous and that it would kill him, his reply was "Could I die in a better cause?"

On the way home from the inauguration of his successor, I said to him, "If thee had known four years ago what was before thee, the oppo-

sition and disappointments, could thee have undertaken it."

He replied, "Yes, I have given Philadelphia an object lesson which sooner or later will have a beneficial effect."

Mr. Blankenburg's life was an open book—like all human beings he made mistakes—but these were never so serious that they could not be corrected.

The *Outlook* said, "Honesty, patriotism, purity of purpose, courage—these qualities distinguished this sturdy crusader. No wonder that, with his record, men called him the 'Old War Horse of Reform.' The German ideal of efficiency and the American ideal of democracy found fit union in him."

"A noble life is not a blaze of sudden glory won,
But just an adding up of days in which good work is done."

96-98

BOOK TWO

The Autobiography of Lucretia Longshore Blankenburg

Chapter I

MY QUAKER ANCESTRY

EIGHTY-TWO years in retrospect disclose many changes, reveal the beauty of life's ever-widening interests, and show how surely a great increasing purpose is interwoven with all human development. Blessed memories and vivid pictures recur in this backward glance through fourscore years. Perhaps my life has been particularly full of those opportunities for service which enrich living.

The underlying motive in my public work has been to help women to broader opportunities both in the educational and the industrial field, and to assist them in winning equal legal rights and full citizenship. I have lived to see most of these things accomplished for and by women. I have never received pay for any of my efforts but have been a contributor to many public causes.

At eighty-two I am happy in the fact that I am able still to take interest in public affairs, to make addresses, and to write occasionally for publication. To be free from care I have sold all my real estate and live in a hotel apartment

in Philadelphia. My friend, Miss Louise Adolphson, constitutes my family. From such a vantage point this history is recounted.

My grandparents on both sides of the family, the Longshores of my father's people and the Myers of my mother's family, were born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. They were members of the Society of Friends.

My father, Thomas E. Longshore, was born and reared at Attleboro, now Langhorne, in Bucks County. He was a direct descendant of Robert Longshore, who came from England at the time of the settlement of Pennsylvania by William Penn.

A surveyor by occupation, Robert Longshore helped to plan Philadelphia and to survey the same. Later he settled in Bucks County near Philadelphia. The history of Pennsylvania states that he was a gentleman farmer.

My mother, Hannah Myers, was born at Sandy Springs, Maryland, where my grandfather, Samuel Myers, had gone to teach a Friends' school. My mother was named for her grandmother, Hannah Foulke Iden, who was the daughter of Samuel Foulke, grandson of Edward and Eleanor Foulke of Wales, who settled at Gwynedd, Montgomery County, more than two hundred years ago.

Samuel Myers with his family, migrated from

Washington, D. C., to Ohio. He selected a farm home in a Quaker settlement near New Lisbon and remained there many years.

Being a farmer's son, my father, when he became twenty-one years of age, was given a freedom suit of clothes—his first suit made of cloth, and by a tailor, too.

The custom one hundred years ago was to supply the family wants with things produced in the home: all food was prepared there, and the woolen yarn and linen were spun at home. Homespun clothes were made for the children by a visiting seamstress who came in the spring and the fall of the year.

At the age of twenty-three my father, Thomas E. Longshore, decided that farming was not his choice for an occupation. He had made every effort to get an education, and in this he succeeded sufficiently to become a teacher. Desiring to see something of the world, he made arrangements to leave his home in Attleboro, Pennsylvania, and started for Ohio in 1835. At that time travelers had few conveniences. They could walk, drive, ride in a stagecoach, and sometimes travel on a canal boat.

A commission given him by a family friend took my father to the home of Samuel Myers, my mother's father. There he found a cordial welcome and after securing an appointment to

teach, remained for some time. For Hannah Myers, the daughter of Samuel, and young Longshore, romance budded. They were married in 1841 and continued to live in Ohio.

My mother, when a girl, had a great desire to go to Oberlin College which had opened its doors to women. Because she could not earn enough money to pay her way, and as her father could not help, she was obliged then to stifle her ambition for a college education. But as we shall see later, the desire did not die.

Four years after the marriage of my parents, Grandfather Longshore influenced them to return to Attleboro and undertake the management of his farm. At that time my brother was three years old, and I was just six months of age, having been born in New Lisbon, Ohio, on May 8, 1845, at my Grandfather Myers' home. The young family traveled East in a carriage, the most comfortable method then available.

The farm experiment failed and father again turned his attention to teaching at the school in Attleboro.

My uncle, Joseph Longshore, M.D., practiced medicine in the village of Attleboro. As my mother had a desire to study medicine, Uncle offered her his books and advice, both of which she accepted, and, in this way, prepared herself

to enter the Female Medical College which was opened in Philadelphia in 1850. My uncle was one of the founders of this college. At the close of the first term, eight women were graduated; my mother being one of the eight. It is interesting to note that five of the eight graduates were members of the Society of Friends. I was present at the commencement in 1851 which was held in Musical Fund Hall, on Locust Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets. The picture of my mother standing upon the platform is still vivid in my memory. There were a number of male medical students in the audience who came with the avowed purpose of preventing the program from being carried out, but the Mayor sent police to the hall and the degrees were conferred without any disturbance.

Mother commenced the practice of medicine at once; our home was then at 1116 Callowhill Street, at that time a residential neighborhood. The sign of the woman doctor on the window sill was a curiosity and caused considerable comment. People talked of a "she doctor" and said "what does a woman doctor know?" "M.D., mule driver," and so on.

In 1857 mother's sister, Jane V. Myers, came to live with us. She also studied medicine, graduated from college, and had her office in our house.

Chapter II

MY CHILDHOOD; EARLY INFLUENCES

AS a child I experienced some persecution because my mother was a doctor: at school one of the teachers advised the children not to play with me because my mother was an improper person. That it was considered improper and vulgar for a woman to study anatomy and physiology, in fact to know anything about the human body and its ailments, seems strange to us today.

In childhood I was large for my age, for at fourteen I was five feet eight inches tall, slim, and not very vigorous. At fifteen it was deemed wise for me to remain out of school until I became stronger. At sixteen I entered the Friends' Central School, then at Fifteenth and Race Streets, Philadelphia, and completed the two years' course of instruction given at that time.

After my "finishing at school," as it was then termed, I entered Bryant and Stratton Commercial College from which I graduated. Always have I been grateful to my parents for this opportunity of acquiring knowledge of

business affairs, and learning the Spencerian system of penmanship.

My mother was never so busy with her profession that she neglected her children, but as her outside duties increased, more responsibility fell on the other members of the family. My father lent all his efforts to help mother with her medical work and the home. I soon learned to select and make my clothes, also to assist in the various household activities. When outside help was required, a cousin of father's came to live with us as housekeeper and remained with us until her death.

My mother's parents and her sister, Julia, came to live with us in 1863, but my grandfather and grandmother, being aged, did not live long after coming to Philadelphia. Aunt Julia remained with us and was my congenial companion.

It was the family hope that I would also become a doctor and follow my mother's profession. Wishing to test my own fitness and inclinations I matriculated at the Woman's Medical College (the Female Medical College was by legislative action renamed the Woman's Medical College), attending the lectures on anatomy and physiology. But at the end of the term, I decided that medicine would not be my choice. My brother, Channing Long-

shore, did study medicine and was a successful doctor in Sheldon, Iowa.

My parents were interested in the antislavery movement of the time. One of the activities of the Antislavery Society of Philadelphia, to which they belonged, was to help runaway slaves to reach Canada by the underground railway. As a child, my sympathies for this cause were awakened by a slave woman who remained hidden in our home for several days until it was possible to send her to Canada.

Antislavery fairs were held each year to raise money to carry on this work. For me they were a great attraction as they afforded me an opportunity to see and hear such distinguished men and women of that day as Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and Lucretia Mott. Sojourna Truth, a unique character, a colored woman orator from Michigan, was a guest in our home for some days.

Many members of the antislavery group were also advocates of woman's rights. The English antislavery convention, meeting in London in 1840, refused to seat the United States women delegates. This acute discrimination against women caused the calling of the Woman's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. Lucretia Mott's diary, June 23, 1840, observes that the reason for the refusal of the English to

seat the American women delegates was a fear that admission of women, "being contrary to English usage, would subject the antislavery advocates to ridicule."

The Woman's Rights movement was considered rank heresy. Naturally a woman doctor would be not only a believer in woman's rights, but an exponent of the principle. And so my family became members of this woman's rights society. Lucretia Mott, Mary Grew, and many other prominent people in Philadelphia advocated woman's rights.

I grew up in the atmosphere of political and social reform. My parents were alert to study the new ideas that developed year by year, adopting those that appealed to them. The success of my mother as a doctor brought many advanced thinkers and reformers to our home, all of whom gave my mother their encouragement.

Woman suffrage for a long time was the outstanding issue. It took seventy-two years to convince enough men and women of the justice of woman suffrage. This campaign of education was followed by the adoption in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, granting the rights of full citizenship to women.

Chapter III

MY MARRIAGE TO RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG

IN the summer of 1865 a young German, Rudolph Blankenburg, called at our home. He brought a letter of introduction from my father's brother, Isaac Longshore, to his son, Edward, who at that time was making his home with us while he was learning to be a merchant.

Uncle Isaac lived near Hammonton, New Jersey. There also was the home of Carl Becker, who for years had been the tutor to the Blankenburg family at Hillentrup, Lippe-Detmold, Germany. It was to Mr. Becker's home at Hammonton that young Mr. Blankenburg had gone upon his arrival in America in 1865.

An interesting and receptive friend Mr. Blankenburg proved to be, and he was made a welcome visitor in our home. He found employment with the William H. Horstmann Company on Fifth Street above Arch Street, and became a salesman at $6.00 a week. As he acquired a freer use of the English language and knowledge of business, he was promoted rapidly.

For about two years Cousin Edward, Rudolph

Lucretia Longshore — Rudolph Blankenburg

These photographs were taken in 1866, the year before their marriage

Blankenburg, Aunt Julia Myers, and myself made a gay quartet.

On April 18, 1867, Mr. Blankenburg and I were married by the Friends' ceremony before Mayor Morton McMichael. The afternoon of that day we started West to sell goods. Mr. Blankenburg had become a very successful traveling salesman, and often spent two months at a time on the road.

We made our home with my parents who then lived at 1326 Arch Street. In January of 1870 a little girl arrived in the Blankenburg family, but her stay was short, for she left us the following July.

In January, 1870, Mr. Blankenburg was promoted to the office of foreign buyer for the firm and made his first trip abroad. Having been diligent in his work and careful in saving his money, he, in 1871, asked for and was granted a year's leave of absence. We had decided to go to Europe for he was anxious for me to become acquainted with his family.

The Blankenburg family in Germany included father, mother, two girls, and five boys. Four of the boys had left home to seek their fortunes. Three went abroad; one remained in Germany. Father Blankenburg was a village pastor of the Reformed Lutheran Church. The family home was in Hillentrup on the border of the Teuto-

burger Wald, a village of the most primitive type. The inhabitants were of the peasant class, and although they could read and write they had but little knowledge of the outside world.

On this, my first trip across the ocean, every day brought some novel experience. At that time it took a steamer two weeks to make the voyage. We had few passengers. Freight occupied most of the vessel. During the trip we became quite well acquainted with an elderly Englishman who took considerable interest in us and gave us much advice. He told me to be sure to stop in England and have a shepherd's plaid suit made, as all smart Englishwomen wore plaid dresses when they traveled on the Continent. I did not follow his advice.

On arriving at Lemgo, the nearest railway station to Hillentrup, we were obliged to hire an extra post to take us some eight miles farther. It was the custom of the driver to blow his horn frequently to announce that strangers were passing and also to announce the arrival of guests. The villagers were curious to see Rudolph's American wife. The menfolk serenaded us the first evening, and every time I went out for a walk the women would rush to their front doors to see what the American looked like. An elderly woman who did extra work for the

Blankenburg family, when introduced to me, asked if I had a white coating put on my face and hands to make them white, as she thought Americans were Indians with a dark skin. Rudolph pushed up my sleeve to convince her I was white.

The family was very cordial and tried in many ways to entertain me. One sister spoke some English, the rest spoke only German, which, unfortunately, I could not speak. I did not drink tea, coffee, wine, or beer, which fact made me an unusual and difficult guest. The afternoon cup of coffee was a daily social event and a cup of tea was deemed necessary for a proper evening meal. Everyone tried to teach me German, father spending an hour each morning giving me lessons. I did learn a great deal of the language during the three months we remained in Hillentrup.

Few can realize the weariness I experienced in trying to understand both the conversation and customs of this old country environment. Our visit covered the Christmas holidays, which the village people celebrated more elaborately than I had been accustomed to do, for the Society of Friends at that time did not observe holidays.

As the night air was believed by them to contain some dangerous quality which made it

unfit to be admitted into bedrooms, father was very solicitous and begged us not to run any risks by opening our windows. We did not obey him, but nothing alarming happened.

Early in March we started south, touring France, Italy, Switzerland, South Germany, and Belgium, then returning to Hillentrup for a summer visit. After this visit we went to England and Scotland and then came back to America.

As I look back upon this visit to my new relatives, nothing but pleasant memories remain. My only regret is that I was not better prepared to do my part as a temporarily adopted citizen of little Hillentrup.

Chapter IV

A NEW ENTERPRISE

ON our return to Philadelphia in 1872 Mr. Blankenburg decided to start in business for himself. He opened a store at 211 Church Street, following somewhat the same line of business as William H. Horstmann & Sons. He specialized in yarns, linens, and notions. My parents furnished most of the capital used in this new business enterprise, and in order to keep expenses at a minimum I spent all my spare time at the store. Through a period of several years I helped in the office and watched over the business in general, especially when Mr. Blankenburg was obliged to be away. As the business grew and more people were employed, my services were not essential, but I have never entirely severed my connection with the business we started.

In January, 1873, our second little girl arrived; she was a beautiful child and rather precocious. When she was almost nine years of age she was stricken with diphtheria and died.

The Centennial Exhibition was held in Philadelphia in 1876. This collection of the world's

newest products, presented as they were as a center of many new educational and social ideas, was a great revelation to all who were privileged to attend the exhibition. After the close of the exhibition many of the new ideas were discussed and some experiments were made with them. Mr. Blankenburg and I joined the group interested in organizing the charities of Philadelphia.

This was the beginning of my public service. I served for years as a visitor from the Ninth Ward, and also on the Central Committee of the Society for Organized Charity.

The liberal members of the Woman's Centennial Committee decided they would form a woman's club. This club was christened the "New Century Club," after the little daily paper published by the Woman's Committee during the Centennial Exhibition. Aunt Julia A. Myers was a charter member. A woman's club was then a great venture and a social innovation. In 1878, after the club was well established and its usefulness demonstrated, I was permitted to join and soon became a life member and later an honorary vice-president. This club was a great factor in training me for a more ample life and for a deeper interest in public affairs.

The first paper I prepared for presentation to the New Century Club was an account of our visit to a colored family living some ten miles

from Jacksonville, Florida. My courage failed me when the time came to read it, and I asked my good friend, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, to present it for me. The next paper that I prepared I managed to read myself.

In July, 1879, our third little girl arrived.

For years I had been a member of the local suffrage society, but not an active one. When Susan B. Anthony was gathering material for the history of the Woman's Rights movement in the United States in 1884, she asked me to make a survey of the various public interests claiming the attention of women in Philadelphia.

At a meeting of reorganization held in Chester, Pennsylvania, November, 1892, I was elected president of the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association. This office I filled for sixteen years. When I was elected president of the Association, the office required that I study parliamentary law and practice it. Miss Anthony gave me lessons in speaking so that I might be heard when addressing meetings in large halls. Both acquirements have served me well during years of public work. I have been called upon frequently to preside at public meetings and social functions because of this preparation.

The new officers elected to help me were women of ability. Mrs. Mary B. Luckie, the corresponding secretary, has been my constant

friend and assistant during the years that have followed. We carried a program of education quite generally over the state, and had many interesting experiences, gradually winning more converts and achieving some publicity. The State Federation of Pennsylvania Women admitted suffrage clubs to membership; that made it possible for suffrage to get a hearing through the club reports.

Jane Campbell, president of the Philadelphia Woman's Suffrage Society, always had a full and witty report which kept the subject of woman suffrage before club women in particular, as well as the general public. Three of the State Suffrage Association meetings over which I presided were held in the Hall of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg. The Association sponsored two bills: one, giving mothers equal guardianship with fathers over minor children; the other, giving widows the same share of the property of intestate estates that the law gives men. The first bill was amended and passed. It enlarged the privileges of women, but not to the extent suggested in the original. The second failed to pass, but later a bill was passed giving widows $5,000 from a husband's estate before the collateral heirs were considered.

In the spring of 1908 at Boston, Massachusetts, the General Federation of Women's Clubs

elected me auditor. The campaign on my behalf was made partly because I was a suffragist, and on the ground that it was time for the General Federation to endorse woman suffrage. In November of that year, declining to serve longer as president of the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association, I devoted my time to General Federation Club work. This gave me a new field and a new audience for suffrage propaganda.

At the Board meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs held at Colorado Springs following my election, the president, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, received some fifty-odd letters asking that woman suffrage be presented on the program of the next biennial to be held in Cincinnati in 1910. After some discussion the question was decided in the affirmative. Miss Kate Gordon of New Orleans spoke for full suffrage at the biennial of 1910. Mr. Blankenburg sent a paper advocating qualified suffrage for both men and women, and Miss Alice Chittenden, of New York, spoke for the anti-suffragists. The next day the local suffrage society gave a luncheon for the suffragists attending the biennial; this proved so large that the capacity of the hotel was overtaxed, and the event proved a great success.

Suffrage sentiment had grown to such a degree that at the next biennial, held in San Francisco

in 1912, a Department of Political Science was added to the study program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. At the following biennial held in Chicago in 1914, I had the honor of presenting to the convention a woman suffrage resolution which was adopted by a large vote. The minority voters were bitter, but soon accepted the situation.

For six years I served the General Federation of Women's Clubs first as auditor, then as second vice-president, and later as first vice-president. During this time another of my tasks was to try to make the General Federation magazine a success. I also worked to keep the Federation from being exploited by promoters who looked upon the organization as a gold mine for commercial exploitation.

Following my term of service, I was elected by the convention an honorary vice-president of the Federation.

Chapter V

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

MY early experiences, due to the fact that my mother was a woman doctor, caused me to devote my energies to helping women to wider opportunities and to equality before the law. My charity visits convinced me of the need for many civic improvements. My membership with the Woman's Health Protective Association—an organization which had only a brief existence—was full of interest. Among the many things we undertook were: to improve by filtration the water used in Philadelphia; to put fenders on the street cars to prevent accidents; to secure vestibule protection from storm and cold for the street-car drivers and to compel more careful collection of ashes and garbage. The first three measures were recognized as beneficial, and were eventually adopted. The collection of waste is still one of the city's problems.

Four organizations—the Woman's Suffrage Society, the New Century Club, the Woman's Christian Association, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union—joined in an effort to

have police matrons employed in the station houses to care for women prisoners and lost children. Mary Grew and I represented the New Century Club. We succeeded in getting four matrons appointed. This was considered a questionable expense by the Department of Police, as the policemen believed that they were quite competent to take care of the women prisoners.

Mrs. Cornelia E. Moorhead, of the Christian Association, supplied the money to make the desired alterations in Independence Hall to accommodate the police matron, for City Hall had not then been built. The woman matron was installed in 1886 in Independence Hall. Now, in 1923, there are matrons in nearly all the station houses. They are now properly recognized as a necessary part of the Department of Public Safety.

The Smoke Nuisance Committee, of which I was the chairman, was active for several years. After careful study of the question we discovered that the smoke nuisance could be abated by the use of mechanical appliances and by careful stoking where appliances were not available. The committee visited many of the offenders; some were persuaded to install appliances, others would not do so. The city coöperated with us to some extent under Mayor

John Weaver. Our argument was based on the facts that housekeeping was the largest industry in Philadelphia, that the destruction of clothes and household furnishings by smoke cost thousands of dollars annually, and that smoke-laden air was irritating to the lungs and should be eliminated as far as possible.

A published appeal for funds was made by me as chairman. Among the many encouraging responses came a particularly pointed letter, "I will contribute to your fund for the suppression of the smoke nuisance," said the aggrieved writer, "if you will agree to join me in a movement for the suppression of that interminable, pestiferous nuisance, Rudolph Blankenburg."

The Joint Committee did not receive the conditioned contribution, but Rudolph Blankenburg continued to be a "nuisance" and a thorn in the flesh of the brazen grafters of Philadelphia.

The city exempted the railroads from fines and failed to influence the officials to instruct their locomotive firemen in the matter of careful stoking. Meanwhile, in New York and Washington, D. C., railroads were compelled either to electrify the entering locomotives or to use smokeless coal. It was unreasonable to expect the law to be enforced for manufacturers in Philadelphia if the railroads were immune.

When the Philadelphia Civic Club was organized it continued the work of the Smoke Committee with Mrs. Imogene Oakley as chairman.

Another of my objectives was to secure women school directors in Philadelphia. Several of the Philadelphia organizations of women advocated women school directors. The New Century Club Committee on Educational Affairs of which I was chairman for a few years, was active in promoting this reform. The law permitted women to serve on school boards if they could induce the politicians to nominate and elect them. Women, they thought, asked too many questions about school contracts, did not understand, and could not be trusted! As a consequence, few have served. Recently a reorganization of the school system abolished the ward school director, and instituted school visitors, positions open to both men and women by election.

Miss Anna Hallowell, one of Philadelphia's advanced thinkers in matters of public education, introduced in 1883 a sub-primary school experiment which is now familiarly known as the kindergarten. This was financed by private subscriptions. After a five years' demonstration the Board of Education was induced to incorporate the sub-primary experiment into the general system of Philadelphia school work.

With this change many of us thought that Miss Hallowell should become a member of the Board of Education. Mr. Alexander Colesberry had been selected by the judges for appointment to represent the ward in which Miss Hallowell lived. Mr. Blankenburg and I convinced him that he should withdraw in her favor which he did, and Miss Hallowell was appointed the first woman to serve in this capacity.

Soon a demand was made that another woman should be appointed to the Board of Education. Mrs. Mary Eno Mumford was selected. Both these women made creditable records as members of the Board. Only a few women have succeeded them and at this writing there are two women members, both giving intelligent service.

In 1891 women factory inspectors were advocated by the labor organizations, suffrage workers, and the New Century Club. It fell to my lot to lead these bodies in the crusade for that cause. The State Legislature listened to the appeal of labor and to the women to open doors shut until then against women in the public service. This action resulted in the appointment of two women to the factory inspection service. Others have since been appointed.

Early in the life of the New Century Club an appeal was made by some of the younger mem-

bers for a working-woman's club. These young women had so enjoyed their membership in the New Century Club, and especially the social side of club life, that they wanted working-women to have similar privileges. The New Century Guild was born of this request in 1884. Mrs. Eliza S. Turner, one of the leading spirits in the formation of the New Century Club and its third president, became the president and inspiring genius of this new organization. She drew me into the new family to serve as an active worker, a director, and a trustee. At this writing I am serving the Guild as a Trustee of the Endowment Funds. The Guild was the first in America to offer evening class instruction to its members in connection with all the advantages of a club house. For two winters I taught bookkeeping. A noonday rest and a lunch at cost are other privileges of the Guild home much appreciated by the members.

Before the Drexel Institute was opened in 1891, Mr. Anthony J. Drexel, at Mrs. Turner's suggestion, gave the Guild $5,000 to try out some industrial experiments for the Institute, such as instruction in dressmaking, millinery, and cooking. All the experiments were successful and were taken over by the Institute when it opened. Mr. Drexel, in planning for a memorial, at first thought of a home for women of the

better classes who were either alone or had met with reverses. Mrs. Turner and others convinced him that a school where the young people of both sexes could supplement their school work by day or night classes would be a far better monument than such a home.

In 1912, I was elected president of the Associate Committee of Women of the School of Industrial Art, Broad and Pine Streets, Philadelphia. This office I filled for thirteen years and upon retirement was elected honorary president of the committee. By virtue of my office I was trustee of the school and Memorial Hall and also a member of the executive committee of the trustees.

This school came into existence about four years after the close of the Centennial Exhibition in 1876. It is coeducational, and is partly supported by state and city appropriations.

The Associate Committee of Women during my administration purchased and now operates a boarding home for women students which is almost self-supporting.

The committee coöperates in many ways with the trustees in the conduct of both school and museum, and the members have been influential in securing a large portion of the permanent endowment for both institutions.

My connection with this school brought me into close association with a group of earnest men and women who have not only the interest of art at heart, but also the welfare of Philadelphia and the entire country in all matters of art development and education.

Chapter VI

OTHER TRIPS TO EUROPE

IN 1889, the Blankenburg family planned a trip to Europe. Our little girl Julia accompanied us, for Mother Blankenburg was still living in Germany and, of course, was anxious to see her granddaughter.

In the course of this visit we arranged for Lucretia S. Blankenburg, a German niece, twelve years old, to come to the United States the year following to live with us, and to be a companion for Julia.

Just after the return of Mr. Blankenburg from his trip to Russia as Famine Relief Commissioner on May 20, 1892, little Julia was stricken with diphtheria and left us. This was a terrible blow to us all. Then and there we resolved to do all we could to help others and if possible improve public affairs.

In January, 1893, Mr. Blankenburg again went to Europe to buy goods. He cabled me to invite Aunt Julia to accompany me, and start at once for Germany to join him on a trip to Japan. There he planned to investigate the silk market and buy if favorable. We made

some home arrangements and started on a trip that subsequently took us around the world. This trip was full of pleasure and gave us all a much wider vision of life—and the customs of other nations. We returned to the United States in time to visit the World's Fair in Chicago.

In 1894, Mr. Blankenburg bought his first piece of real estate, our house, 214 West Logan Square. During the latter part of July we moved into the new home before Mr. Blankenburg had returned from a business trip to Japan. That summer, Mrs. Alwine Pape, Mr. Blankenburg's sister; her daughter and R. Frederick Blankenburg, brother to our niece Lucretia, came from Germany to visit us. My parents had moved with us. Up to this time the Blankenburgs had lived with them. The change was agreeable to them; they enjoyed the larger house, the open square in front, and the quieter street. We were all very happy in the new home. Mr. Blankenburg said, "I want to live and die in this house." The City Fathers said otherwise; they condemned it, and took it for Parkway development in the spring of 1917, after it had been our home for twenty-three years.

Altogether I have made eight trips to Europe. On my fifth trip, in 1899, I took my mother, in honor of her eightieth birthday. Mother's life had been so devoted to her profession that she

had taken but few holidays. Later when she had retired from active practice, she would not leave father who was frail in health. After father had gone and the way opened, she became an enthusiastic tourist and traveler.

On this occasion we made a family party. Our niece Lucretia finished her school work at Swarthmore College that spring. Her uncle and I decided the time had arrived for her to go to Germany and visit her mother. She was too young to go on such a trip alone, so we arranged for Miss Adolphson to accompany her. My mother became so interested in their preparations that she developed a strong desire to go also. We encouraged her, and Mother's sister, Dr. Jane V. Myers, then decided she would rent her home for the summer and go with us as the doctor for the party in case of sickness. A cousin from the West who had been visiting our family decided she would join us in our adventures abroad. Finally a party of six women set forth to visit Europe, and especially the Blankenburg home in Germany. The ocean was quiet; the English Channel was like a mill pond. To Mother's joy and satisfaction we made the trip without a mishap. We spent some weeks in England, and then went to France, Switzerland, and Germany. We visited Mr. Blankenburg's childhood home and his sisters.

I made my seventh visit abroad to attend a great Congress of Women held in Berlin in 1904. In fact, there were two meetings there in that year. First there was the International Council of Women, composed of delegates from the Women's Councils of Europe, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Mrs. May Wright Sewell was president. This was followed by an International Congress directed by the German women.

The laws of Germany did not permit outside organizations to call a convention; therefore the International Council could not call this one; the call had to be issued by the German Council of Women. The German Congress followed the Council meeting. The delegates from the United States included Miss Susan B. Anthony; Rev. Anna Howard Shaw; Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt; Miss M. Carey Thomas; Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman; Mrs. Mary Church Terrel, president of the National Association of Colored Women, Washington, D. C.; myself, and a few others. Miss Anthony was the favorite on all occasions. She was introduced at the meetings as "Miss Anthony of the World." Our suffrage leaders were accorded honor whenever they appeared on the platform, or elsewhere.

This Congress was called to discuss the "New Woman," with Frau Marie Stritt, of Dresden,

presiding. There never was anything like it in Germany before. The programs were given in German, French, and English. I was given twenty minutes to tell about the changes in our laws in favor of women. Mrs. Terrel, the colored delegate, gave a report in German one day, and an address in French another day. She made a good impression and received the same social attentions that the rest of us did. There were many teas and receptions, as many as five in an afternoon. We had fine things and great things, but the climax of the convention came at the close with the official reception and dinner given by the Burgomeister and Municipal Council of Berlin in the Rathhaus, or town hall, an elegant municipal palace. The Board of Magistrates, with their heavy gold chains and medals about their necks, and the Berlin women members of the committee, in beautiful costumes, stood at the top of the broad marble staircase to receive us. It was the first time in the history of the German Empire that a gathering for women had been welcomed in the town hall of the metropolis. I never had attended anything like it; it was a revelation. The Burgomeister made an address of welcome: Miss Anthony and others spoke. Mr. Blankenburg arrived from America before this reception took place. I was privileged to invite him to

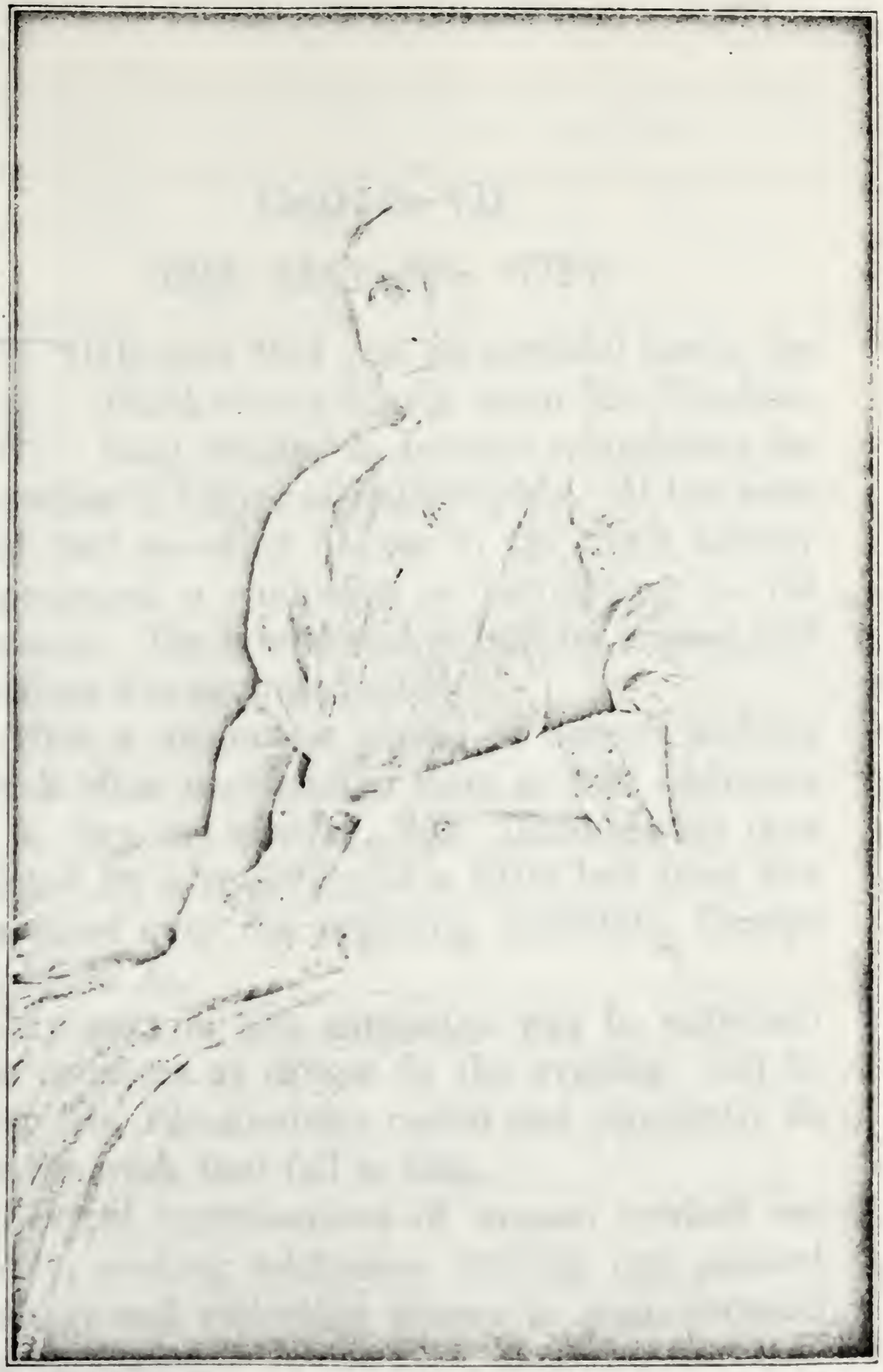
the function. His comment was, "How my people have grown in grace to grant such recognition to women!"

The Empress of Germany gave a reception to the officers of the International Council and Miss Susan B. Anthony. The ladies stood in line; the Empress walked down the line, shook hands with each woman, addressed her in her own language, and seemed to be familiar with her particular interests. When she came to Miss Anthony she said, "You are the honored guest of this occasion," and then expressed appreciation of the great work she had done and asked several questions regarding it.

Miss Anthony thanked the Empress and said she hoped that Emperor William would give German women a higher place than was allowed to American women.

The Empress, smiling, replied, "The gentlemen are very slow to comprehend this movement."

Before returning home Mr. Blankenburg and I joined a party of friends and visited Norway and Sweden.



LUCRETIA LONGSHORE BLANKENBURG WHEN SHE WAS THE "FIRST LADY" OF PHILADELPHIA

From a photograph taken in 1914

Chapter VII

THE MAYOR'S WIFE

THE year 1911 was an eventful one in the Blankenburg family when Mr. Blankenburg decided to become a candidate for the office of Mayor of Philadelphia. It has been said that no other Mayor in the city's history experienced a campaign so picturesque as his became. The interest taken in it by women and children was unprecedented.

After a strenuous period of speech making which often necessitated three or four addresses in a day or evening, Mr. Blankenburg was elected by a majority of a little less than five thousand over the opposing candidate, George H. Earle, Jr.

My part in this campaign was to entertain the speakers at dinner in the evening, and to keep Mr. Blankenburg rested and physically fit for the work that fell to him.

Several organizations of women worked actively, making addresses, sending out printed matter, and collecting money to push forward the campaign.

Much has been said about my part in the elec-

tion of Mayor Blankenburg and of my help afterward. Some disappointed politician sent word to the Associated Press that I would run the coming administration, that Mr. Blankenburg was only a figurehead. This statement went all over the United States and Europe.

The following foreign quotations are entertaining:

The *Cork Examiner* of November 10, 1911, contained the announcement of Rudolph Blankenburg's election as Mayor of Philadelphia and said gravely that "he expected to turn over the administration to Mrs. Blankenburg in order to prove that women were capable of government. The result is awaited with much interest."

The *Glasgow Herald* of the same date made a similar statement and then further said, "Her husband is to be purely her mouthpiece, and, strange to say, the Mayor makes no objection to this novel plan. . . . Business men are distinctly anxious, whilst the party machine is in an absolute panic. Mr. Blankenburg has been asked to repudiate his wife's statement, but he has declined and declares that he intends seeing it through."

In July, 1914, nearly three years after Mr. Blankenburg's inauguration as Mayor, the *Hanover Tageblatt* of Hanover, Germany, after stating the peculiar circumstances of Mr. Blank-

enburg's election, announced that they had discovered the reason for my failure to direct the office of Mayor to "have been caused by the arrival of twins in our home and that my motherly instincts had overcome my political ambitions."

If such a thing had happened it would have been an interesting discovery, but it did not. These stories are political fiction and have no foundation of truth.

Mr. Blankenburg and I had talked over many questions in connection with the office and the duties of the Mayor and were conscious of many needed reforms. Support of any kind other than this never entered my head. Mr. Blankenburg drew around him a group of younger men to help him administer the office, and I seldom appeared in City Hall.

About all a Mayor's wife can do is to attend to requests for gifts for bazaars and go to luncheons, teas, and other social affairs. I was invited to take part in many conventions and public meetings, and was often asked to make short addresses for one cause or another. I had the friendship and support of the best women of Philadelphia—and also of the newspapers.

At the expiration of his term of office in 1916, Mr. Blankenburg's health was so impaired that I devoted all my time to looking after him, attend-

ing also to the dismantling of our home, 214 West Logan Square, which the city had taken for the Parkway extension. We settled in a furnished, rented house in Germantown, where we lived until Mr. Blankenburg passed away, April 12, 1918.

After that I moved into a home I had inherited from my aunt, Dr. Jane V. Myers, at Cynwyd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, six miles from City Hall.

In 1892 Miss Louise Adolphson became a member of our family. She has been an unselfish friend and co-helper to me and mine all these years. She has been a partner in our successes and a comforter in our sorrows—a daughter in the family, may I say.

Chapter VIII

THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN

FRIENDS were very attentive and tried to help me through the long, lonesome days that followed Mr. Blankenburg's death. Among them was Mr. T. E. Mitten. Mr. Blankenburg had greatly admired his ability as head of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, and Mr. Mitten had been a frequent visitor, both at 214 W. Logan Square and at Pocono Pines, our summer home.

Mr. Mitten was troubled by the criticism of the public and the newspapers of the skip-stop system, and decided to ask a committee of citizens composed of men and women to investigate the accusations brought against the Philadelphia Rapid Transit's management. He asked me to serve with two other women on this committee. This I did. Ten men and three women composed this "Committee of Thirteen." Honorable William D. B. Ainey was president, and I was the vice-president.

From my Civic Club report I quote the extract on the following page:

This unique committee was called into existence by the president of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company to refute or establish serious charges made by certain newspapers of Philadelphia in regard to the increased number of casualties and fatalities which occurred after the government ordered as a fuel economy the placing of skip-stops. The committee was composed of the following representative citizens: Hon. William D. B. Ainey, Chairman Public Service Commission; Hon. Thomas B. Smith, Mayor City of Philadelphia; Mr. James E. Lennon, President Select Council; Dr. Edward B. Gleason, President Common Council; Dr. Edgar F. Smith, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania; Mr. Ernest T. Trigg, President Chamber of Commerce; Judge Raymond MacNeille, Esq., Chairman United Business Men's Association; Most Rev. Dennis J. Dougherty, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia; Rev. Dr. Philip Rhinelander, Bishop of Pennsylvania; Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, Rabbi Keneseth Israel Temple; Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg, Civic Club; Mrs. Henry D. Jump, Council of National Defence; Mrs. J. Willis Martin, Emergency Aid. It met, organized, and invited those with evidence to present it at two public hearings to be held in the Mayor's reception room in City Hall.

The findings of this committee were:

1. That there has not been presented to the Committee of Thirteen any evidence to justify the charges made that deaths have been caused by skip-stops.

2. That there has not been furnished to the committee any evidence to prove that any other casualties have been caused by the operation of skip-stops.

3. The committee feels that the whole question of a continuance or discontinuance of skip-stops as a system is one that it has no power to determine. In the regular

governmental channels there are proper tribunals for determining this question. The committee is informed that an ordinance dealing with skip-stops is pending in the City Councils and that the matter has also been submitted to the Public Service Commission for consideration by that body.

In addition to this, the committee has been informed by the president of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company that the company proposes to submit the question of the continuance or abolition of skip-stops to a popular vote of the car riders on each line, that the riders may determine the issue.

The Committee of Thirteen feels that in view of the foregoing it would be beyond its scope to determine any matter beyond the fatalities and other casualities in connection with skip-stops.

This report was adopted unanimously by the Committee of Thirteen.

As a member of the committee and a student of social questions I anticipate a closer coöperation and a better understanding between the Public Service Corporations and the people whenever the troubles which affect both can be settled by such hearings.

This method of arbitration is a new application of the ideals of democracy.

LUCRETIA L. BLANKENBURG, *Vice-Chairman*
Civic Club Representative

Chapter IX

A MOTOR TRIP TO THE PACIFIC COAST

LUCRETIA and Frederick Blankenburg, the niece and nephew who became members of our family, remained with us and under our care until they married and set up homes of their own. Frederick settled in San Diego, the California climate being better for a rheumatic condition which developed with adolescence. Lucretia married an architect in New York and lived there until the World War, when the War Department sent her husband, Daniel G. Malcolm, to San Diego to serve in the Navy Construction Department. These children both grew to be valuable members of society, and were grateful to their uncle and aunt for bringing them to America, where their opportunities were so much better than in Germany.

At the age of seventy-five years, in the spring of 1920, I rented my Cynwyd home and decided to make an automobile trip to California. Miss Adolphson accompanied me. On my way West I attended the Biennial Convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs held at Des Moines, spent Fourth of July with my brother

in Iowa, and then went on to Denver, to Yellowstone Park, and California. The trip was full of interest. We had a pleasant visit and returned by motor over the Santa Fe trail, reaching Philadelphia late in October. The ride covered eleven thousand miles. Since we had no accidents and met no unfriendly people, we decided that the woolly West was as safe a place in which to travel as is the silky East.

Soon after my return, Edward W. Bok invited me to become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Award Committee. Up to this writing, seven of these annual awards of $10,000 each have been made to citizens of Philadelphia who, through specially meritorious services to the city, are considered deserving of this recognition.

Another interesting event occurred about this time. Under the auspices of the National League of Women Voters a Pan-American Congress was held in Baltimore. The delegates from Mexico brought with them a large Mexican flag, which had been embroidered by women in the City of Mexico, and sent by Madame Obregon, wife of the then president of Mexico, as an expression of the friendly feeling the women of her country had for the women of the United States. The flag was to be placed in Independence Hall. The president of the New

Century Club, Mrs. John B. Roberts, was asked to meet the delegates and sponsor the flag reception.

The honor of receiving the flag and making the address came to me, and I had the pleasure of returning the compliment by giving to the women of Mexico the Stars and Stripes woven in silk. The ceremony took place in Independence Square; later another ceremony was held in Independence Hall where the Mayor received the flag for the city.

Chapter X

AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN MAYOR AND THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

IN 1920, the new Mayor, J. Hampton Moore, organized a City Welfare Department with Ernest L. Tustin as director. A part of this new welfare plan was to have a council of women to assist in looking after the indigent poor and neglected children of the city, and the various recreation centers.

I was asked to serve and coöperate with the recreation section of this new department. I visited all the playgrounds and recreation centers in the city, and made such suggestions as seemed to be helpful.

The next Director of Welfare under the 1924 administration of Mayor Kendrick did not encourage the women to help him; consequently the Council has been able to render it little service, but has retained its organization with the hope of future useful activity.

Mayor Moore was friendly to the women who had helped to elect him and appointed a number of them to minor office. He appointed me as a

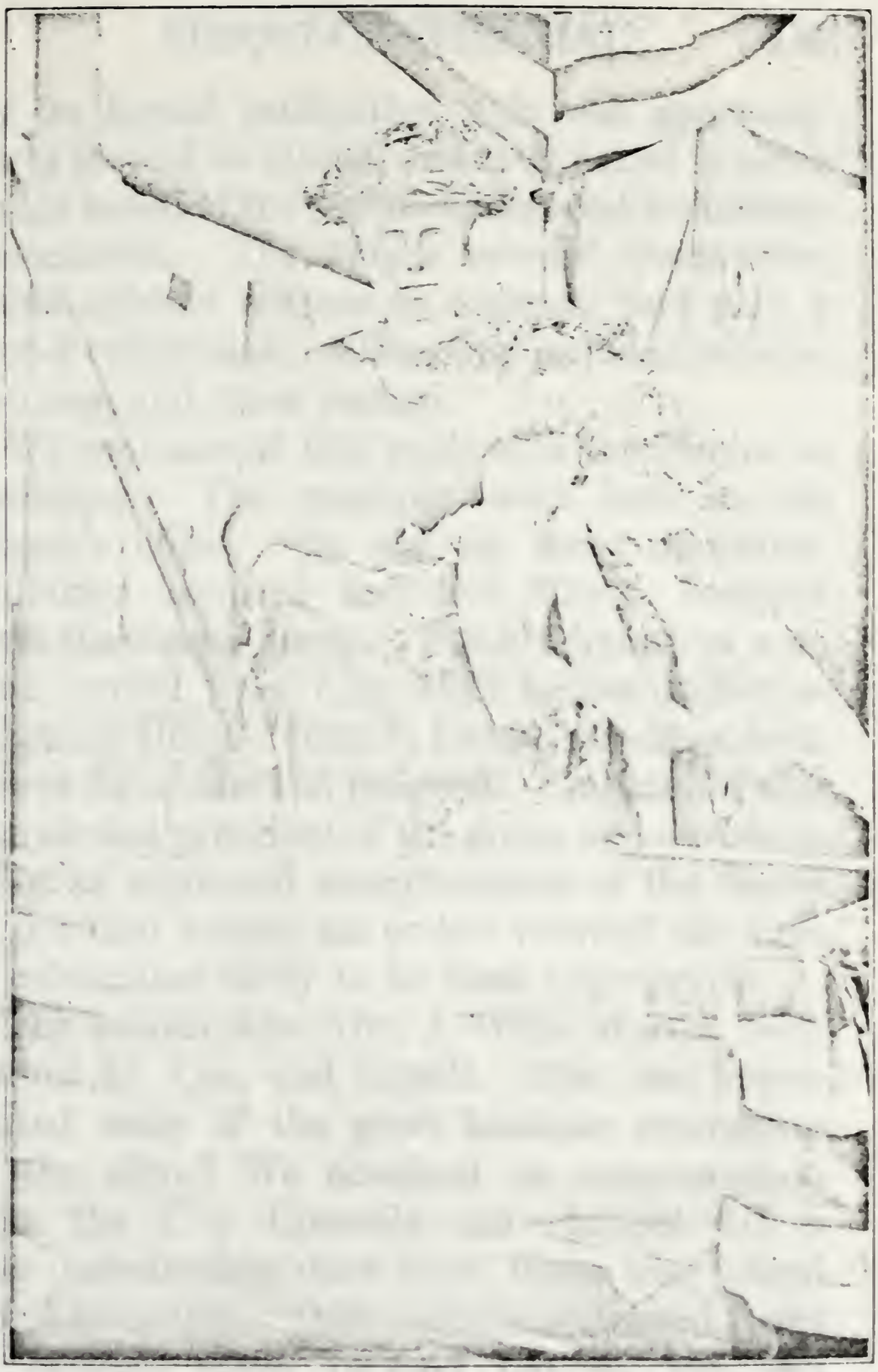
member of the Independence Hall Committee, which is organized to look after the historic buildings at Fifth and Chestnut Streets.

A new fire boat for the Delaware River service was built during Mayor Moore's administration. He asked me to christen the boat "Rudolph Blankenburg," which I did, and later made an address at the luncheon which was a detail of the formalities of the christening.

As a civic duty I accepted the invitation of the Mayor to attend the receptions held in City Hall on New Year's Eve. I was considered an ex-member of the municipal family, and as such was requested to stand in line to greet the thousands of citizens who annually pay their respects to the officials of the city.

Mayor Moore invited me to help with many other of the city's public functions, and I did so.

In 1921, it was stated that John Wanamaker, a surviving member of the 1876 Celebration Board, had suggested at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce that the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence be celebrated by an International Exhibition. After some discussion the Chamber of Commerce approved this suggestion. The subject was laid before the Mayor, who thereupon called a citizens' meeting in City Hall for the further consideration of this proposal and



At the Christening of the Delaware River Fire Boat, August, 1921

"Through the gracious courtesy of His Honor, The Mayor, J. Hampton Moore, I christen thee 'Rudolph Blankenburg'"

for its formal ratification if it was approved. I was invited to attend, and later asked to serve on the board of the Sesqui-Centennial Exhibition Association. The Mayor selected twenty-five public-spirited citizens to organize and plan a proper celebration. This group included twenty-two men and three women.

We commenced this work with the Mayor as chairman. The meetings were held in the Mayor's office. By and by some misunderstandings occurred and the Mayor resigned from the Sesqui group. The headquarters were then moved from City Hall to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. John F. Lewis, Vice-President, served for a time and resigned. Franklin D'olier was elected president of the group and on taking office he requested every member of the Board to put into writing his or her views of the type of celebration likely to be most appropriate.

The women were Mrs. J. Willis Martin, Mrs. Arthur H. Lea, and myself. The men represented some of the great business enterprises of the city. We obtained an appropriation from the City Councils and charged $10 a year membership dues from those who joined the Association. Only certain restricted items of expense could be paid out of the city appropriation. Other expenses had to be met from dues. We met, we talked, we planned;

we had different presidents and secretaries; we spent thousands of dollars trying to inform and interest the people; we held a mass meeting in the Academy of Music to arouse enthusiasm, but no definite action seemed possible. This was partly because the citizens did not enthuse, and partly because none of the machine politicians had been appointed to the Board in the beginning. Later we could not interest them.

After some two years of effort on our part without results, the Chamber of Commerce came to the rescue. In the interval, the death of John Wanamaker had occurred. A number of the original members of the Board had resigned. New workers were desirable. Up to this time I had served as auditor with William Potter and George W. Norris as my assistants. When the Chamber of Commerce took the lead, a firm of public accountants was engaged, and I was elected vice-president of the Association.

Ernest T. Trigg, chairman of the new Executive Committee of the Sesqui Association gave his time and best thought to the work. How to get money to carry on this enterprise became the greatest of our problems. The expectation was that if the citizens of Philadelphia would subscribe $5,000,000, Council would appropriate $5,000,000, and that Congress would perhaps give further aid. A fund of $1,000,000 was

underwritten by different corporations and private individuals. The balance was to be raised by the sale of debenture bonds which were to pay six per cent interest for the subsequent three years out of the profits of the celebration. When the committee of which I was a member discussed this plan of financing I expressed my disapproval of it and declared I would not ask anyone to buy the proposed bonds. The site we expected to occupy for the celebration was the undeveloped Parkway and the eastern section of Fairmount Park. The architect, Paul P. Cret, had contributed satisfactory plans.

A luncheon was held in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel to which representatives of all the women's organizations were invited. The chairman, Mr. Trigg, explained the bond project and the plan of a "drive" by which the bonds were to be sold. I was so unfavorably impressed that I decided to resign from my office as vice-president of the Association, giving as my reason that I was unalterably opposed to the conditions of the suggested bond issue.

It was my opinion that the plan for six per cent bonds conveyed the wrong impression. If interest and the face value of the bonds were to be paid back to the investors, the celebration, I argued, would have to be conducted to make money. This was not our original intention.

If six per cent was paid yearly, it must come out of the principal, and the project was, therefore, a fake business proposition as I saw it. If the words "six per cent bonds" were used merely to attract customers and there were only figures and hopes behind the bonds, the foundation of such bonds was unsound.

The press and my friends upheld me in this appraisal of the situation. Drexel and Company notified Mr. Trigg that they would not receive as deposits the money that might result from the sale of the bonds. The suggested drive was postponed until certificates of participation could be prepared to take the place of the bonds and when the selling campaign was finally undertaken, it proved a failure.

On request of a representative of the paper I sent the following letter to the *Public Ledger*, November, 1923:

To the Editor of the Public Ledger:

The *Public Ledger* editorial brought me keen satisfaction as it expressed so many of the ideas I've been trying to develop during the last two years.

The Sesqui-Centennial celebration is not a one-man job. In the early days of the Association I sent a letter to the Executive Committee in which I stated that, to be a success, the celebration must come from the people of Philadelphia and not from a selected group. I also stated it was a mistake not to have City Councils represented on the Board, or not to obtain the Vare coöperation.

I had made a study of the situation and was thoroughly convinced that the old-style exposition is dead. Something entirely new and pertinent to world conditions should be created.

Why could not Edward Bok's Peace Award of $100,000 be presented in Independence Hall at the time of the celebration, if it has not been awarded before?

While in California I studied two expositions held there —one in San Francisco and the other in San Diego. Dr. Edgar L. Hewett of the Smithsonian Institute created the "story of man" for the exposition at San Diego. I discussed with him the possibility of presenting in a concrete way the lessons of war to the people, showing the evolution of man-killing implements, and the destructive effects which they have had upon fallen empires and communities where war has ravished.

It was just possible that the next President will see the wisdom of calling another conference of nations to plan a world's court of justice that will be acceptable and workable.

We could make this celebration international by bringing brains and diplomacy to our city rather than bed quilts, saws, beads, and glassware. The conference of nations, perhaps the closing days, could be held in Independence Hall.

We could have a great historical pageant to depict the history of civilization from the time of the landing of Columbus, stressing particularly William Penn's settlement and his application of the principles of peace.

One year ago, I suggested in a letter to the president of the Sesqui-Centennial Association that a committee be appointed to tabulate the scientific discoveries and inventions of the past fifty years. Nothing was ever heard from this letter.

We should have scientists and philosophers attend the celebration, and should strive to bring in people and brains rather than things. The spiritual side of the celebration should be stressed and not the material.

The sporting side should not be neglected as America has long been a recognized leader in athletic accomplishment.

I believe that Mr. Trigg has been honest in his endeavor to make the celebration a success and has given a great deal of time to that end.

To be a genuine success the celebration must be free from commercial and political aspects. It may even be found necessary for the old Board of Directors to step aside and give place to men of new life and vision who can create a dignified celebration worthy of Philadelphia and the great event to be commemorated.

We need a celebration that will challenge a new attention and interest—something that will leave its mark upon a thinking world.

In 1924, the new Mayor, W. Freeland Kendrick, took office. The Sesqui-Centennial affairs were turned over to his care and to the machine politicians back of him. All our plans were discarded, and South Philadelphia selected as the site for the celebration. The time was short; the site most difficult to develop, owing to the character of the ground; the expense would, I felt, be excessive.

Many of the exhibits later planned were of the bazaar type. Sales were disappointing to the foreigners who had anticipated a large attendance and many customers.

On the other hand the Pennsylvania Building was an attraction, the beauty of its structure causing admiring comment. The hospitality there and the exhibits were very satisfactory. The building was presided over by the Honorable Miss Martha G. Thomas, one of the commissioners appointed by Gifford Pinchot, then Governor of Pennsylvania. There were left no debts, no scandal to spoil the state's contribution to the Sesqui-Centennial Exhibition.

The historical High Street conceived and arranged by the Women's Committee, Mrs. J. Willis Martin, chairman, and Miss Sarah D. Lowrie, was also an attraction and largely visited on account of its educational value. The Women's Committee proved their patriotism by their devotion and executive ability. On the closing day there were no debts and no scandal to mar their records.

There were other exhibits on the grounds worthy of a visit, and some events of historical meaning. The Mayor considered the Dempsey-Tunney boxing bout the greatest success of the Exhibition.

Alas!

As an International Exhibition the less one says about the Sesqui-Centennial the better. It is over, and may be recorded as the tragedy of 1926.

Chapter XI

MY EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

MUCH that has been set forth in the foregoing chapters was summarized on the occasion of May 8, 1925, when at noon, there assembled about fourteen hundred men and women in the Ball Room of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel to help me celebrate my eightieth birthday.

Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols was toastmistress. Mrs. William E. Buehler made a short address of welcome to the guests after the Right Reverend Thomas J. Garland had pronounced the grace. Miss Mary A. Burnham spoke of my work as a suffragist. Mrs. Edward W. Biddle talked of my work as a club woman. Mr. Franklin Spencer Edmonds discussed my political interests; Mr. Edward W. Bok, my civic activities. Ex-Mayor J. Hampton Moore spoke of Mr. Blankenburg's and my own love of Philadelphia and our efforts on behalf of its welfare; Mrs. Frank Aydelotte spoke of my interest in women and their work. Mrs. James Starr paid a tribute to my mother as a doctor.

The most dramatic detail of the entertain-

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ment was the birthday cake with eighty red candles, a sort of two-story cake with the Goddess of Liberty in the center of the upper part. The hotel took great interest in baking this cake, a piece of which, neatly wrapped, they also supplied for each guest.

Mrs. George Horace Lorimer presented the cake and paid a fine tribute to my life work. In closing she said, "We entwine the lilies of our love with the laurels of your achievements."

The committee which undertook the arrangement of this celebration also assembled a large number of messages of greeting and congratulations from friends in and outside of Philadelphia. These were bound in a book and presented to me by Mrs. Lewis R. Dick with a gracious expression of love. Three excerpts from my "birthday" book are reproduced in facsimile on other pages. Miss Jane Campbell, one of my stanch suffrage friends and workers, sent a poem which was read by Mrs. Dick.

To Mrs. Blankenburg on Her Eightieth Birthday

We have been friends for many years
In fair and stormy weather,
And looking back upon the days
That we have worked together,
I seem to see, when them I scan,
You always marching in the van!

It was for no small petty cause
  That we were bravely fighting,
We fought injustice, prejudice,
  Bad laws that needed righting,.
    And ever as the years I scan,
    I see you marching in the van!

And yet we only asked that we
  Should vote as did our brother,
We wanted *mere* equality,
  That *one* small right, no other!
    And in demanding such from man
    As ever, you marched in the van!

Yet though our fight was strenuous
  It had its times of lightness;
The things *men thought* were arguments,
  On sober fact shed lightness,
    But even here I'm sure I can
    See you marching in the van!

Yet spite of lies, invective and
  The opposition bitter,
We won! In spite of everything!
  Could anything be fitter,
    That when we wrested votes from man,
    As ever you were in the van!

And though we now go to the polls,
  Strange is it to relate,
The "universe is not o'erturned"
  As our foes used to state
    Should women vote. And still I can
    See you still marching in the van!

Oh! noble woman! Warrior brave!
Who fought the fight to winning,
My dearest wishes now are yours
To ending from beginning!
And as the future years I scan,
In all good things you're in the van!

JANE CAMPBELL

May 7, 1925

It is with grateful appreciation that I extend my thanks to Mrs. Henry D. Jump, Chairman, and to Mrs. F. S. Edmonds, Mrs. Frank Aydelotte, Mrs. William E. Buehler, and Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols, who were at the head of the committee that thus honored me.

I wish also to express my thanks to the sub-committees that helped make the occasion as successful as it was, and the hundred or more organizations who participated in the celebration.

In closing the celebration I made the following address:

DEAR FRIENDS:

What can I say? Words are inadequate to express my appreciation of this gathering to honor a plain woman who has simply tried to follow the light and do her duty. To me there is a greater significance in this testimonial: it is the approval of the forward movements of women.

The pioneers in this great work of awakening women are gone. They planted the seed in the past; we are gathering the harvest.

Eighty years ago today I opened my eyes on a world that gave little thought to the matter of the subjection of women. Then a married woman had no legal, or property rights. She was under cover, and only responsible before the law if she committed murder.

My first acquaintance with the platform was at the age of six in 1851 when my dear, courageous mother graduated in medicine from the Female Medical College, Philadelphia. Great anxiety prevailed because the male students of the University threatened to mob the women and prevent the conferring of degrees. Mayor Henry sent a body of police to Musical Fund Hall so that the ceremony might take place and order be preserved. Eight women, five of whom were members of the Society of Friends, received their diplomas in peace. This experience in connection with the persecution and ostracism which followed made a deep impression upon me and I resolved to do all I could to free women from social and legal injustice.

At eighteen I had finished my school education and, being of a practical turn of mind, I took a course in bookkeeping at the Bryant and Stratton Commercial College.

At twenty-two I made my great adventure in life by marrying Rudolph Blankenburg, a young German whose capital was a good education, a receptive mind, and a noble soul. We worked together; he made a study of our politics, and I continued my devotion to the woman's cause. After the death of our third and last little girl we dedicated our lives anew to this work. Our comradeship lasted fifty-one years.

During these eighty years great changes have taken place; women have ceased to be designated as "females." They no longer think it ladylike to be delicate, and to

faint frequently. They are athletic and alert. They seek an education not only in the arts and sciences but in industry; hence the doors of universities, colleges, and all gainful occupations have been opened to them.

The adoption of the Prohibition and Woman Suffrage Amendments to the Constitution of the United States set the world to thinking. Women have found new opportunities and new duties.

I am very hopeful in regard to the future. Our colleges are filled with splendid young women who promise to lead the coming generations into safe harbors.

The wage-earning women must see a brighter future through the new coöperative system being inaugurated in the business world. Laws will not enforce themselves —they only serve as a background. When prohibition becomes fashionable, and it will as time goes on, people will wonder how they ever tolerated bootleggers and their partners.

Woman suffrage is the latest and most important of the advance steps. Men have not made an unqualified success of politics and of statecraft. The world is very old. All through the ages men have dominated public affairs. They have done the hunting; they have captured and killed; they have ruled and made wars. Woman Suffrage is very new—we must wait and see what men and women together can do to improve the conditions we have inherited.

To make this occasion more memorable let us, who are here assembled, resolve to obey the law, to advocate a world court as a step toward world peace, to value our privileges as citizens, and to make more effective the opportunities which lie before us.

I have kept young and lived for eighty years simply because of my work. A great interest in life.

Admiration and homage to
Lucretia L. Blankenburg
a great and good citizen of
Philadelphia and Pennsylvania
who in her long life of good deeds
has lead the way for other women
in civic and social betterment
as did those two great pioneers
in medicine her Mother Dr Hannah
E. Longshore and her Aunt Dr Jane
V. Meyers, whose work together with her
own is lastingly kept in remembrance
at Bryn Mawr College by her gift
of two medical scholarships

M. Carey Thomas Marion Edwards Park
President Emeritus President

April 27 1925 Rufus M. Jones, President of Trustees

A TRIBUTE FROM BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

To Lucretia Longshore Blankenburg.—

You dont know how delighted,
We are to be invited,
To come to your birthday meeting;
And to write a loving greeting.

For years you led the vanguard,
To guide our women onward;
And in your exalted station,
You have served both state and nation

Good friend, from every section,
You witness our affection.
May God be with thee, and sustain
Thee in the years that yet remain

May 8th 1926.

Thomas J. Garland.
Elizabeth Garland

THE BISHOP OF PENNSYLVANIA AND MRS. GARLAND PAID THEIR RESPECTS ON MY EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY WITH THESE CHARMING VERSES.

Dear Mrs. Blankenburg:

Every one who knows you, loves, respects and honors you — There's a girl-quality about you, still — and a fragrance of a life well-lived such a happy blend! I am only one of the many Philadelphia women who long to be as love-worthy as we feel today that you are!

Devotedly remembering your husband and your dear self —

Mary Louise Curtis Bok

I have always believed in following Mrs Bok, and so far it has come out pretty well — So I follow here, and endorse from my heart the sentiments she expresses —
You know what Chauncey Depew said to Ellen Rock: "Eighty is young" — It is — May you feel so, and keep feeling so, and then 20 years hence give another opportunity for such a word as this to

Your admirer and friend

Edward W. Bok

April 1925

A BIRTHDAY GREETING FROM MR. AND MRS. EDWARD W. BOK

In and between these outstanding events of my life I have made a study of current history and have been able to make frequent addresses to club women and at meetings of a civic character, also to send out radio messages. One notable incident I remember with satisfaction was my part in the protest meetings held in the Academy of Music against the dismissal of General Smedley D. Butler, the Director of Public Safety, because of his energetic efforts to enforce in Philadelphia the prohibition laws of the country.

General Butler was appointed by Mayor Kendrick at the beginning of his administration in 1924. The General was "borrowed" from the United States Marine Corps to serve Philadelphia and clean out the dark places.

As a member of many clubs, and an honorary member of many more, I have kept in close touch with the evolution of the woman politician. The young women graduating from our colleges and the self-supporting women of this country are the hope of the future.

In January, 1926, Miss Adolphson and I took the Mediterranean cruise. Our first stop was at the Island of Madeira. Then we went to Egypt, stopping at various ports on the way. After Egypt came Palestine—for years I had wanted to see the birthplace of the Christian

religion and the people who cared for the sacred places. It was a satisfaction to reach there, but as the guide generally informed us "that tradition said so and so" our imagination had to be drawn upon to picture the scenes of the Bible story.

We left the cruising party at Naples and made our way up through classical Italy to Geneva where I hoped to learn all I could about the League of Nations. From there we went to Germany where we remained for a month visiting Mr. Blankenburg's nieces and nephews. Their gracious hospitality will be a lasting and happy memory with me. The story of the sufferings of the family during the war was harrowing. The taxes and the economy necessary to pay them caused frugal living and self-denial. The old-fashioned patched clothing of many of the people seen on the streets and in public places suggested how far this practice had to go. Of course there are some people who do not appear to be affected by the waste of war, but the majority in Germany are suffering from its ravages.

After Germany we went to Paris and London, and sailed for home on the third of July. At eighty-two I never missed a scheduled trip of the cruise or any projected journey on the continent.

Chapter XII

HOME LIFE

IN closing this brief story of my busy and interesting life I must say something about our home. When Mr. Blankenburg and I were married we remained with my parents, at their home, 1326 Arch Street, who were ever ready to coöperate with us. Together we planned for all the fine and intellectual things within our reach.

The family consisted of my father and mother, mother's two sisters, Julia and Jane Myers, and the Blankenburgs. Each one contributed a share toward the expense or the management of the house. We had two doctors' offices to look after, as Aunt Jane and mother were both in active practice.

Our home was really a coöperative business with the privacy and comforts of a home. We did not have a selfish member in the group, nor an idle one, for the family interests were united.

In 1876 Aunt Jane bought the house next door and moved into it. We had part of the yard fence removed to afford freedom between the two houses.

Our children were the joy of our home and beloved by Aunt Julia Myers who took as much interest in them as if they were her own. Emma, the first, did not live long enough to be anything but a little baby; Marion, the next, was with us longer and won the love and admiration of all who knew her. At the death of Marion in 1882, Mr. Blankenburg was almost inconsolable. We went to Florida seeking solace in change, and spent some time in visiting places of interest, returning in a more resigned frame of mind. Julia, the youngest, stayed with us until she was almost thirteen. She was a gifted child in many ways; one of the last things she did was to compose some music as a greeting to her father on his return from Russia.

At the time of the Civil War my parents bought a tract of land east of Woodbury, New Jersey, believing that to be a safe way to invest their savings. When father grew tired of the care of the property, he divided it, giving half to my brother and half to me, and so the Blankenburgs became summer farmers. Mr. Blankenburg took pleasure in helping to plan the crops and watching their growth. One day our barn was struck by lightning, and everything but the animals burned, but a fire-insurance policy made a new barn possible.

I was busy keeping house and learning to bake

bread, taking care of milk, and churning butter. I also experimented with chicken raising. At the end of six years we decided that farming, in contrast to our other interests in Philadelphia and following the loss of Julia, had little charm, and so we sold the place.

These experiences covered a period of twenty-five years. After Julia's death many changes occurred in our lives. Mother was ready to retire from active practice. Aunt Jane moved to the suburbs and retired. Business houses and offices were crowding out the residences in our neighborhood at 1326 Arch Street.

In 1894, Mr. Blankenburg bought the house at 214 West Logan Square. The new home was large and comfortable, and there my parents and Aunt Julia came to live with us. We then added the nephew from Germany; the niece had come a short time before, as had Miss Adolphson, a student of art.

One by one the older members of the family passed away. The niece and nephew married and went to new homes, leaving only Miss Adolphson and ourselves.

During the ten years preceding Mr. Blankenburg's death we spent the summers in our bungalow at Pocono Pines. During the mayoralty period, it was the summer City Hall; a flagpole bearing the Stars and Stripes indicated the loca-

tion. It was a cool, restful place, a home much enjoyed by Mr. Blankenburg.

The Longshore-Blankenburg home made committee meetings welcome, and the beginnings of many new movements were started within its walls. We did not keep a guest book. Had we done so, many distinguished names would have been recorded in it. Among them would have been the names of Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Frances E. Willard, Anna E. Dickinson, Dr. Harriet J. Sartain, and later the names of Mr. Blankenburg's large circle of men friends and those of my own club friends—many of whom were the brilliant minds of the time.

While this book is being printed, Mrs. Blankenburg is attending the Pan Pacific Union Women's Conference at Honolulu as a delegate from the General Federation of Women's Clubs, where she is trying to help solve the problems of her brown sisters of the Pacific basin.

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BOOK THREE

Letters and Speeches

MY MAIDEN SPEECH

By Rudolph Blankenburg

November 23, 1914

My "maiden speech" was made in December, 1865, about two months after my arrival in the United States, at the Philadelphia Lyceum, one of the many debating societies then flourishing in all parts of the country.

The Lyceum was presided over by a staid but benign-looking elderly Quaker, or Friend, as they prefer to be called, whose good nature gave every member or visitor an opportunity to explode his notions on a miscellaneous lot of subjects such as religion, women's rights, slavery, education, Sunday observance, labor, interest charges, peace, capital punishment, and many others.

My maiden speech was made on the subject of capital punishment. We had an old member, a church elder, whose principal virtue seemed to be a superabundance of piety, always ostentatiously displayed in public, but disappearing in his place of business, where many underpaid but overworked girls had a hard time to grind out a living.

He took the affirmative side of the question

and quoted passages from the Bible to the queen's taste to sustain his position. He rolled his eyes heavenward, and in unctuous language called upon Moses and the prophets as his witnesses to establish capital punishment as of Divine order and sanction. His principal stock in trade was taken from Exodus, chap. 21, "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth." Such, he said, is the law of God as given through Moses. That was the climax of his speech and he sat down vainly waiting for the applause of the multitude.

My looks must have betrayed deep interest in the debate, for he arose and said, pointing at me, "That young man looks as if he would like to speak." My face turned scarlet. I wanted to, yet felt a stage fright that almost made my tongue cleave to my mouth. But when the president, in a most kindly way, also invited me, I arose and fired away.

My attack was directed against the previous speaker, who relied for his arguments on this subject, as on almost all others, entirely upon the good Book, twisting its passages up or down, sideways or lengthways, just as suited his purpose.

This was the substance of my speech:

After apologizing for my temerity in entering into an argument with so seasoned a debater, I

proceeded to question his assertion that Moses correctly stated the will of the Lord in the words in Exodus, chap. 21, "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth," in other words, that capital punishment was ordained as the one and only punishment for murder.

He interrupted me, stating, "The good Book says so and you cannot gainsay it."

That was the opportunity I had looked for. My retort was, "Who has greater wisdom, who is the greater authority, God himself, or Moses, his servant? Let us take up for consideration the first murder in the first degree of which we have any record, the murder of Abel by his brother Cain.

"We read in the Bible, Genesis, chap. 4:

" '. . . Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

" 'And the Lord said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

" 'And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

" 'And now art thou cursed from the earth . . . a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

" 'And Cain said unto the Lord. My punishment is greater than I can bear.

" 'Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

" 'And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.' "

After quoting these passages from the Bible, I continued:

"Now let me ask, Can there be a more positive and direct command against taking a 'life for life, eye for eye, and tooth for tooth'? You may quote Moses until doomsday, but while I admire the great lawgiver, you cannot help but agree with me that a direct and unequivocal command from God, and this as to the first murder in the first degree we know of, must take precedence over any and all Mosaic laws or secondhand Bible interpretations and must supersede the judgment of any other persons who interpret the Bible to suit their convenience.

"Let me repeat, therefore, the Lord's injunction: 'Whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken upon him sevenfold.' This is the severe punishment threatened and imposed by

God himself upon whomsoever might be the slayer of Cain be he sheriff, executioner, or private citizen. Is this warning and threat not enough to frighten anyone out of his belief in capital punishment? I am sure the friend who preceded me will never run for sheriff of this county, for he would not dare to hang even the vilest of murderers for fear that vengeance would be taken upon him sevenfold.

" 'Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth,' will never answer as Bible argument in favor of capital punishment, for the best intended legislation by Moses, the prophet and servant, must fall to the ground before the direct command of an all-wise and immutable God."

Rounds of applause greeted me as, with burning cheeks, I resumed my seat. No music ever sounded sweeter to my ears than the plaudits evoked by my maiden speech.

Mayor Blankenburg's Address at the Naturalization Reception in Convention Hall in Philadelphia in 1915, where Woodrow Wilson, then President of the United States was the Chief Speaker.

My fellow citizens, I welcome you, who secured citizenship in our great Republic during the last few months, on this auspicious occasion. I can do so with all my heart, because, like your-

selves, I came from foreign shores to find a home in the land of the free. And this home I have found, and this home it is my earnest prayer all of you may find. Do not forget, my friends, that with the great privilege you have secured by being made American citizens there goes a great responsibility. It is easy enough to take the oath of allegiance and passively decide to be good citizens of our great nation, but you must do more than that. You must dedicate yourselves from the day you become citizens until the day you shall close your eyes, and give yourselves and the best there is in you for this grand nation of ours, so it may endure as a shining example for all the world. In forswearing allegiance to the potentate or the power under which you were born you emphatically declared that you would become true American citizens. Let me entreat you now and hereafter to be Americans first, last, and all the time; no matter what may happen in the world at large; no matter about our personal feelings; no matter about the country we loved that we left behind, our first allegiance is to the country of our adoption. Again let me impress this strongly upon you this evening, especially on account of the occurrences of the last eight or nine months. Thank God we have in the chair in the White House in Washington a man who knows what

is right, a man who knows what is just, and a man who knows how to govern. I am perfectly willing to leave the decisions of the great questions confronting us in the hands of President Wilson.

My good old father, who was a minister, taught me in early childhood some maxims that have meant everything to me through life, among them, "Do right and fear not." I have tried to live up to that maxim and have succeeded as best I could in my humble power. Do right and fear not, my newly made fellow citizens, and your road through life will be a smooth one.

You have civic duties to perform. In the first place, my friends, own yourselves. Let no man, who for selfish reasons may seek your support, divert your mind for a moment from the thought and the fact, which you should always remember, that you have become American free men and that you are nobody's slaves. It is often said that at the present time there is little chance for the aspiring young to accomplish much in this world. My friends, there are greater opportunities today than there have ever been in the world's history. But these opportunities will not come to you unsought. You must seek them yourselves.

We have three sorts of citizens in our country

—the native born, whose ancestors came here and found a home; the foreign born, who, like many of you and myself, came to these shores to better their condition and became American citizens; and that other group of the foreign born, wives and minor children, on whom citizenship is conferred by the naturalization of the husband and father. It is these last two classes of citizens whom I am especially addressing tonight. Let me beseech you, my friends, stand by the right; never follow the self-seeker, never let him dictate to you what you shall do.

If you follow this advice and are true to yourselves, then you and your children and your children's children will become a blessing to this great Republic for all time.

I did not intend, nor was I asked, to deliver an address; but on an occasion of this character my heart overflows with love for the country of my adoption; with love for the institutions of our land and its flag; and with love for all its people, for every man, woman, and child that lives within its confines.

I shall not remain with you many more years, for I have passed the Biblical three score years and ten. Let me say to you young men in this audience that the time will come when you will be called old, as I am. When that time arrives, let no one have occasion to point to you as hav-

ing been a detriment to or an enemy of your country, as having broken your oath of allegiance. Rather strive, each one of you, to make this country greater and better, to conserve it, to make it what it has been destined to be—the greatest land under God's heaven.

Letters Inspired by the Naturalization Meeting

President Wilson, who was then bearing the burdens that all our War Presidents have had to carry without much help from anyone, came to address the naturalization meeting in Convention Hall. Many other distinguished men were there, among them representatives of the Federal Government. Immediately after this unique reception to new citizens, which was widely discussed in many parts of the country, letters of praise and appreciation came from people who had been touched by Mr. Blankenburg's address. Following are a few of these letters:

The White House
Washington
May 14, 1915

My dear Mr. Mayor:

I thank you most warmly for your generous letter of May 12. It was a great pleasure to

me personally, and a great inspiration to be at that wonderful meeting, and I want to say that I have not in a long time heard anything that gratified me more than your own patriotic address on that occasion.

Cordially and sincerely yours

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg, Mayor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA
May 11, 1915

MY DEAR MR. MAYOR:

May I say to you what a splendid speech that was of yours last evening? It fairly rang with patriotism and was filled with love. It made hundreds of people prouder of the Mayor of Philadelphia, and many of us fonder of you personally.

Old? Not a bit of it! Your heart was younger last evening than it has been for years, and your voice was as strong as your character.

It was positively fine!

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) EDWARD BOK

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION
WASHINGTON, May 12, 1915

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor of Philadelphia

MY DEAR MR. MAYOR:

In acknowledging the receipt of your courteous letter of the 11th instant, I feel that I cannot justly appropriate the thanks you offer upon the assumption that you are the obliged party, since to me it appears that the Government, and particularly that branch of it charged with the administration of the naturalization law, is under deep obligations to you for the most inspiring public gathering that it has ever been my lot to attend.

You have, through your patriotic and unselfish efforts, and with a display of consummate tact and administrative ability, placed the subject of citizenship by naturalization upon that plane in the public mind which it ought to occupy, and which on account of the neglect of a hundred years it has to a great extent failed to attain.

I thank you upon behalf of the Public Service for the great demonstration of Monday night, and I thank you personally, and your colleagues, for the satisfaction that I personally had in being an eyewitness to such an event. It means much to me, both as an American citizen and as the

Commissioner of Naturalization, and it means more to the cause of good citizenship in the eyes of the public. I rejoiced at every word you uttered in your address, and only regret the conditions which made it impossible for me to see something of you and to express my appreciation of your patriotic efforts.

With sincere regards, I am

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Richard K. Campbell

U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Naturalization
Washington, May 14, 1915

My dear Mr. Mayor:

Your very kind letter of the 11th has just been received by me upon my return to my office.

I cannot begin to express to you the depth of my appreciation for not only what the letter contains, but for the sentiment which prompted its writing.

The success of the reception was assured to me from the outset, by the immediate and comprehensive grasp of its import which you manifested on the occasion of our first discussion of it. Your spirit has been reflected throughout the entire personnel of your staff, in considering the multitude of details leading up to the recep-

tion. It is, therefore, the greatest pleasure to have taken some part in what promised to be a most pleasurable occasion, but which exceeded the most sanguine hopes and expectations, and to feel that at such a trying moment in the affairs of State, something was arranged which so manifestly "renewed the spirit" and "gave a sense of support" to the President in meeting his responsibilities.

With feeling of highest regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) RAYMOND F. CRIST

Deputy Commissioner of Naturalization

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor, Philadelphia, Pa.

The last important address made by Mr. Blankenburg as Mayor of Philadelphia just fifty years after his maiden address, and given at the Seventeenth Annual Dinner of the Pennsylvania Society, Waldorf-Astoria, New York, Saturday, December 11, 1915.

When I had the honor of addressing the Pennsylvania Society at its thirteenth annual dinner, four years ago, I concluded my remarks with this expression:

"I hope to give to municipal government a new standard that may be found worthy of emulation and that will give Philadelphia lead-

ership in the solution of one of the most pressing problems confronting our nation."

This was not said boastfully, but in a spirit of sincerity and determination, for it has ever been my conviction that one of the weakest links in governmental progression of our country and in the sociological development of the Republic is the confused, irrational, and improvident conduct of city business, almost universally prevalent.

The government of our municipalities, large and small, should be on an honest, efficient, business basis, non-political, non-partisan, non-sectarian; not of bosses nor by classes, but for the masses.

I was born an optimist and have always looked upon the bright side, in spite of many disappointments. Never in my life have I felt more confident of ultimate victory. Four years' earnest work in the Mayor's office, supported by devoted officials, in places high and low, all imbued with a new spirit, all working for one purpose, have wrought results that are sure to leave their mark upon the community at large.

A Mayor who has no axes to grind, whose one object is to work for the public weal, can accomplish much if he remains true to himself. Some of the obstacles in his way are disappointed officeseekers among his own followers; dis-

gruntled advisers who know it all; visionaries who ask the impossible, and last but not least, the unfair, wrathful newspaper critic, to whom everything is anathema that does not accord with his own oftentimes narrow, self-centered vision and questionable political purposes. This is especially true if the ultimate ambition of the critic is personal leadership and effort to become the "Great Mogul" of the city.

If a newly elected chief magistrate of city, state, or nation selects members of his cabinet from defeated rivals, he is apt to make a mistake that will haunt him throughout the term of his office. A disappointed candidate may nurse his sore until it will break out when least expected and most hurtful. He had better be disappointed by never being appointed.

After my election I had offers in many quarters from those willing to sacrifice themselves upon the altar of public office. Some were based upon political, others upon personal grounds, and strange to say, not one was based upon the ground of desire and ability to give service. The offers came direct or through intermediaries.

The pressure was great until I openly declared: "I will no more permit you to select the members of my cabinet for me than I would permit you to select a wife for me were I unmarried."

That settled it, and the result was the appointment of official advisers whose superiors it would be difficult to find. Each one was told, "You have entire control over your department. The responsibility is yours. Come and consult me whenever you wish; but for results I look to you. Responsibility placed upon individual shoulders will accomplish what divided authority generally fails to do."

The government of a city should be divorced from politics; if not, politics are apt to rule the municipality six days a week. As the seventh day, commonly called the Sabbath, is a legal holiday, there would be scant time to devote to public work. Politics would thrive, public business come to grief.

Philadelphia awoke from its lethargy four years ago, as New York did two years ago; the results of this awakening are before us. Neither city will permanently go back to the old quagmire of political corruption, though a desperate, dying gasp for restoration to power of the old gang may be temporarily successful.

To me the ballot is the most sacred and precious secular privilege. The voter who deliberately neglects to exercise the right of an American freeman, who fails to cast his ballot without proper excuse, should, for repeated offenses, be deprived of his citizenship. He

should be made the companion of the man without a country. Then he would realize what American citizenship means and learn to appreciate it.

The corner stones of city government should be:

Absolute elimination of partisan politics.

Business administration, clean, progressive, constructive.

Fitness, not party service, first consideration for appointment to office.

Public place free from traders in politics and the influence of the money power that claims "The dollar can't be wrong."

A hundred cents return for every dollar expended.

All contracts to the lowest responsible and not to the highest "responsive" bidder.

Strict adherence to the merit system in the Civil Service.

Adequate care for the city's dependents.

Sound education, combined with moral, physical, technical and civic training for our children.

Plenty of playgrounds and other breathing places for the poor.

Builded upon such a rock, any incorporated municipality, which really means any coöperative corporation in which all citizens, men, women, and children, are shareholders, should

prosper and benefit all alike. If a municipal corporation suffers from lack of interest on the part of many of its shareholders, it will retrograde. If it suffers from a chronic misconception of its purposes on the part of many others, it is sure to become the victim and to fall into the hands of men always eager to take advantage of the lack of public spirit among their fellows.

Honest and efficient municipal government, once established, will leave its mark, and as good municipal government is the main foundation of good state and national government, we are doubly derelict if we fail in our civic duties.

Philadelphia contemplates a bond issue of $90,000,000, largely for permanent improvements. More than two-thirds of this sum will be expended for public work started by the present administration and most of it is already under construction. This embraces real rapid transit through subways and elevated railroads; abolition of miles of grade crossings; the bringing into the market 4,000 acres hitherto unimproved land within two miles of City Hall; the construction of a dozen modern municipal piers, to give Philadelphia a place among the large shipping ports of the world; river and harbor improvements; an up-to-date sewage disposal plant; Parkway; boulevards; fifteen bridges and other betterments too numerous to specify.

Had money been made available by Councils under the present administration, many of these improvements would be completed or be near completion at the present time.

These contemplated operations will cost the city much less under a business than under a political administration. We have reduced, for example, contract price for grading from 62 cents to 30 cents per cubic yard; dredging, from 19 cents to 14 cents per cubic yard; wood block paving from $3.49 a square yard to $2.00; building piers from $12.75 to $9.25 a square foot; and so all along the line. If the incoming administration is honestly conducted, no favoritism shown to bidders, no graft permitted, it will mean the saving of millions of dollars of public funds that were formerly squandered by favors granted certain contractors and by extravagant prices paid for all kinds of city work and material.

If anybody is under the impression that the Mayor's office is a bed of roses he suffers under a distinct delusion.

But it is not all work, as humorous incidents crop out constantly. Some people seem to think the Mayor is a kind of "jack of all trades."

A man in Canada wrote me to be kind enough and select him a wife. He was quite willing to reward me handsomely.

A beautiful, magnificently gowned lady came

to the office one day and demanded that the Mayor should keep other women from running after her husband.

The Mayor was, in all seriousness, asked to make wife and daughter more respectful toward the husband and father.

A dead cat had been lying in the back street over night. The Mayor was requested over the telephone to come and remove it at once.

He was several times asked to stop roosters crowing early in the morning and dogs barking late at night.

Three young ladies expressed their desire to be adopted in the Mayor's family.

A telephone call came from a woman asking the Mayor to come immediately to her house and stop water from running into her cellar.

A New York lady visiting Philadelphia was so scared one day when there was a dense fog and halo around the sun that she called the Mayor up on the telephone, asked him what was going to happen and whether the world was coming to an end, and what she had better do. She was advised to return to New York immediately, for a halo is nothing new to New Yorkers.

It is quite interesting and amusing to compare the duties of the Mayor of Philadelphia in 1915, with those of two centuries ago.

We learn, for instance, that during and after

the days of William Penn, the Mayor of Philadelphia, called "a most estimable individual," in accepting the honor of election conferred upon him by his fellow citizens, had the following duties and obligations to perform:

He had to defray the expenses of his own inaugural dinner. Now he has to attend so many dinners and banquets, often at the cost of serious indigestion, that the substitution of one inaugural dinner at his own expense would seem quite a saving and a real blessing.

Another duty the Mayor had to perform was to inspect the bakers' loaves. Even in those early days it appears that not only the quality but also the weight of the staff of life was under suspicion and needed official attention.

He also had to test the town pump. Imagine Mayor Mitchell testing the modern town pump of New York of today—or the Mayor of Philadelphia—the town pump that has grown from a few buckets of water to the consumption of hundreds of millions of gallons daily.

The Mayor also had to audit municipal accounts. This would have been less difficult if the accounts had not been kept in pounds, shillings, and pence, that antiquated and bothersome system still prevalent in England. I hope that during the negotiations for peace (and may the day not be far distant!) between

the warring nations of Europe, one of the conditions imposed upon England will be the adoption of the decimal system and thus do away with the antediluvian time-robbing, brain-splitting method of accounting in their present currency.

Last, but not least, the Mayor received no salary. It is hardly surprising that in those days men were not anxious to occupy this high office for which we are never at a loss to find volunteers today! To cap the climax, any citizen declining the dignity of the office of Mayor was fined £20. Therefore, instead of receiving any salary, the only financial advantage the Mayor had was that, by accepting the position, he escaped a fine of £20, so he really was $100 in pocket.

The office then sought the man; today not only one man but whole armies of men appear willing to risk their private reputations by accepting public office.

No greater misfortune could befall our country than to have it separated into sections subject to influence or dominance by any class or classes of people, whether native or foreign born.

I am a thorough believer in Americanism of the highest type and character. To me neither German-Americans, nor Irish, Scotch, French, Italian, or Russian-Americans, as a political entity appeal.

If we consider the amalgamation of nations and races from early days until the present time, made most pronounced in the one hundred million inhabitants of our own country, the pretended Anglo-Saxon race should no more claim a separate place among Americans than should any of the so-called "hyphenated Americans."

An overwhelming majority of our white population is a mixture of all the white races of Europe—Teutonic, Latin, and Slav. It embraces all minor branches, especially English, German, Irish, Scotch, Welsh, Scandinavian and later on, those from Latin and Slav countries.

And where would you place the ten million colored people who live among us? They certainly cannot be called Anglo-Saxons.

Let us, therefore, abolish all distinction that may lead to ill feeling and let us call ourselves Americans, first, last, and all the time.

Let Preparedness be our watchword—preparedness against any and every foreign foe, so that no power on earth may ever succeed in overthrowing our Republic or in restricting its growth and development. But let preparedness also be our watchword against the visible or invisible domestic foe. Let us thus dedicate ourselves by giving the best there is in us to the service of city, state, and nation.

And this service should commence right at home; for woe to the city whose wealth and affluence rise while its citizenship declines! Ours must not be a loose-jointed, but a firmly knit democracy, so it may serve as a bright example to the rest of mankind.

The destiny and development of the human race, for centuries directed in the Old World, will hereafter largely be molded and guided in the Western Hemisphere. Let us make ourselves worthy of this new task, imposed upon us without our seeking, by the tragic events across the ocean! This can only be done by a citizenship of high inspiration and true devotion to humanity.

June 15, 1915

The Old Guard

The Mayor's Open Answer to David H. Lane in Regard to a Number of Incorrect Statements Made by Him in a Public Address.

Brother Lane certainly is amusing. The older he gets the more philosophical are his thoughts on the lines which have made Brother Lane so conspicuous a member of the "Old Guard." Like the Bourbons of old, he never learns and never forgets.

I wish I had a certified copy of his address so as to be able to answer him in detail. From what the papers say, he makes serious charges:

for instance, that I have expended more money than my predecessor and have less to show for it! "Figures won't lie," is the old saying. Now let us look at the expenditures under the two previous administrations. I quote from the Manual of Councils, which gives the total expenditures in the last year of the Weaver administration, in round figures, at $27,000,000. These expenditures increased, under the Reyburn administration,

in 1907—$3,300,000
" 1908— 7,200,000
" 1909— 8,400,000
" 1910— 8,700,000
" 1911— 6,000,000 (when the organization faced a mayoralty campaign)

And then Brother Lane says we have nothing to show for the expenditure of money! This is too absurd a statement from even a sage to need comment. The citizens of Philadelphia know and can see every day what improvements have been made in every department, without one exception. Brother Lane further says that I spend money without appropriations having been made. Won't he be good enough to cite facts?

Again he says the Mayor has not kept his promise for eighty-cent gas. No. Because Mr. Lane and his organization friends declined to

provide funds to replenish the treasury from the deficit resulting from the adoption of the gas ordinance. But Brother Lane, let me ask you right here: Were you and your organization friends sincere in your advocacy of eighty-cent gas? You passed, by a practically unanimous vote of Councils, the eighty-cent gas ordinance and you could have overcome the Mayor's veto by raising your finger. You certainly had the power, and if you had acted in good faith to the public you could have given our citizens eighty-cent gas. Yours would have been the credit for lower gas but also the responsibility to find money to make up for the loss ($1,800,000) thus caused in the city's revenue. Brother Lane you will have to give me an easier one!

It is almost too laughable to have Brother Lane charge me with violating the very essence of Civil Service. I am not aware of any discharges or forced resignations for any but good and solid reasons and always under the law. Resignations have been asked, given, and accepted for the reason that the holders of the offices were not satisfactory and could not perform the duties of their respective positions. I suppose the old Civil Service Commission, under my predecessor, was to Mr. Lane's taste.

Lo and behold! I have depreciated the value of the city's properties by ill-advised agitation!

Brother Lane, what do you mean? Aren't you just charging up the hill and down again?

I have incurred the risk of an epidemic by failure to remove the garbage. If Brother Lane and his coadjutors had accepted our request to make five-year contracts for garbage, the collection of garbage would have cost one-half of what it did under the Lane-McNichol-Vare protectorate. As it is, we saved the city something like $750,000 in the price of collection and garbage has been collected more satisfactorily than ever before. I wonder Brother Lane did not move out of the city with such an epidemic staring him in the face!

And then, I have played politics to the limit! Not having played politics even in a slight degree, is the charge made against me by former friends; but as I was not giving a political but a business administration, the charge by either party falls absolutely flat. If Brother Lane means, by playing politics, that I have kept the organization friends from levying blackmail upon city employees, policemen and firemen, he is correct. Nothing gave me greater pleasure than to read in the papers last fall, that the three distinguished senators, one national and two state, put their hands in their own pockets and each contributed $10,000 toward the campaign; instead of putting their hands in the

pockets of city employees, they had to find the way to their own pockets.

I made no effort for an increased water supply or for sewage disposal plant! Why, Brother Lane must have Rip VanWinkled it! Where in the world was he? Has he been asleep? Let him look at the Journal of Councils and read my messages regarding these questions. Bless your soul, Brother Lane, how many persons employed by the city were non-citizens? We took the best we could get and the result has shown the wisdom of our action. Yet the total number, instead of being an army, is not even a corporal's guard, and Mr. Lane knows it.

And then the city's machinery hasn't had proper lubricating oil! Who told you that, Brother Lane? Isn't the machinery running better today than ever before? The city's money has been properly used to lubricate the city's machinery and not to lubricate the contractor's bank accounts.

And his charge about the Almshouse—putrid meat and sour bread! Against which one of the directors is he directing this charge? Brother Lane certainly is hard up for ammunition, or he would not make such a ludicrous statement.

He further charges me with advertising my virtues and economies. I have never advertised myself, but am perfectly willing to let the

citizens of Philadelphia judge between the organization and myself.

I lack practicality! Certainly the practicality of the political organization brand; but it is hardly necessary to go any further into Mr. Lane's charges. Mr. Lane looks to me much like "Sancho Panza" in his efforts to crush an opponent. I should like to meet Brother Lane on the stump this fall. He is a few years older than I am, but in spite of his greater age seems to have more "hot air" than I can boast of. Let me protest, in conclusion, however, to linking Lincoln's name with that of Lane, by insinuation. He might as well compare Henry Clay of Kentucky with Henry Clay of Philadelphia (the director of Public Safety under Reyburn).

As a statistician and a prophet, Brother Lane is a failure. Does he remember his prediction in November, 1911, that Mr. Earle would have a majority of 65,300 over Blankenburg? Try again, Brother Lane!

Letters of Congratulation

In looking over the thousands of letters that had been filed for future reference covering the pre-primary period, then the election and afterward the Administration, I was impressed by

the joy, the hope, and the appreciation expressed by the writers.

Many congratulated Mr. Blankenburg upon his victory at the polls, while others congratulated both Mr. Blankenburg and the city. I do not believe a city official ever entered upon his duties who heard more expressions of approval and promises of support than Mr. Blankenburg, and I may add also, prayers. Organizations, men, women, and children told of their interest in the election and their happiness over the result.

Apparently, from the range of letters, the whole United States was interested in the Philadelphia experiment of a business administration for the city and in Rudolph Blankenburg, the experimentor. The newspaper comments at the time of his death were of even broader scope than the letters.

The following are some of the letters that will convey an idea of the general interest created by Mr. Blankenburg's election and his theories of reform.

Letters from Children After the Primary, 1911

Dear Mr. Blankenburg:

We are waiting patiently to hear of your good luck—we want you to win the election.

During your nomination I won a canary bird. I would like you to give me a name for it. We were going to name it for you, but I would rather you gave me a name. Mamma says I must save up and buy a cage for it. I will be ten years old in January. I won the bird from an Earle man. We are all Blankenburgs. I won the singer fair. When you get the chair of honor I hope you will answer this letter.

I remain your little friend,

(Signed) JOHN O'NEILL

The Mayor answered this letter and suggested to the boy that he call his bird Caruso.

These two letters are of congratulation after the election.

November 16, 1911

DEAR MR. BLANKENBURG:

God bless you, and keep you well and happy so that you may be our good Mayor.

I did not vote for you for girls and ladies don't vote, but my grandpa and papa did. My papa said the city has honored itself and I think so too. I congratulate you and hope that God will bless you and your wife. I congratulate your wife, too. Love from

JULIA BLOCK (age eight years)

November 14, 1911

Hon. Mayor Blankenburg

Dear Sir:

Accept my most sincere congratulations for your splendid victory. I felt sure you would win, because we voted in school and it was thirty-six to three in your favor.

I wish you a successful term in office.

I remain respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. F. Dunn, Jr. (nine years old)

Other Letters After the Election

Philadelphia, Pa.
November 8, 1911

My dear Mr. Blankenburg:

Your old associates, the younger generation, and, in fact, the entire establishment, desire to congratulate you upon your arduous and successful campaign, and join in the hope that your life may be spared to inaugurate and bring to a successful termination a clean and businesslike administration of municipal affairs.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Hortsmann Company
(Signed) Henry Freund
Treasurer

Mr. Rudolph Blankenburg
214 W. Logan Square
Philadelphia, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
November 8, 1911

Mr. Rudolph Blankenburg
DEAR SIR:

I congratulate you heartily on your election as Mayor of Philadelphia, but I congratulate even more heartily the people of Philadelphia for having made such an excellent choice. You have assumed a great burden, but I am sure you will be able to bear it successfully.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) ADDISON B. BURK
President of United States League of Local Building and Loan Associations

"EDGEWOOD"
SAINT MARTINS, PHILADELPHIA

MY DEAR MR. BLANKENBURG:

A thousand congratulations on the splendid victory last Tuesday, especially your own! I am sure no other person than yourself could have been elected Mayor.

We have in Philadelphia much to make us happy. We have been called defamers of our city so long it is a great joy to now honestly be able to be proud of official Philadelphia.

Now that we have won, how paltry and absurd those old arguments become that we were unloyal and un-Republican.

Your and the Councilmanic elections which followed it, have made our city a better, brighter, and happier place and will, I know, do more to advance rightfully her real welfare than any other event in our generation.

Again with heartiest congratulations to your self and with best personal remembrances to you and Mrs. Blankenburg, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANCIS S. MCILHENNY

November 12, 1911

THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD

DEAR FRIEND:

Thank God.

Sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN P. DWYER

Editor of the Philadelphia Record

November 8, 1911

3 A.M.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 8, 1911

DEAR MR. BLANKENBURG:

It is an organization defeat but the success of a Republican.

My congratulations.

Yours truly,

(Signed) DAVID H. LANE

(Mr. Lane was the elder Philadelphia boss.)

50 South Fourth Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
November 7, 1911

My dear Blankenburg:

Thank God for your great victory. Every knave in Philadelphia trembles as he thinks of it. May God give you wisdom and physical strength to carry forward your great work for righteousness. This is the prayer of

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Charles Heber Clark

Mr. Blankenburg:
Do not acknowledge this.

Haverford College
Haverford, Pa.
November 8, 1911

Dear Mr. Blankenburg:

Magnificent—It is a great personal and civic triumph, well deserved by character and effort.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Isaac Sharpless
President

1513 Race Street
Philadelphia
The Morning After

My dear Mr. Blankenburg:

Blessings on you and this city. I rejoice in your success—and Philadelphia's.

Now let the Catlin Commission come back to its work.

Go to the Poconos for a week or so to catch up on your sleep shortage. You have your real life's work ahead of you—and a host behind you.

"Ebenezer."

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JNO. GRIBBEL

Mr. Rudolph Blankenburg
214 West Logan Square
Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW YORK
November 8, 1911

MY DEAR MR. BLANKENBURG:

Just to swell the flood of congratulations I'll say it.

I told you so!

Now I hereby solicit the office of

City Soothsayer
(without salary)

Seriously now—don't let them kill you with *overwork*, that's the one *important* matter henceforth.

Yours hilariously,

(Signed) WALT
(Walt McDougall)

2135 N. Uber Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
November 8, 1911

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
214 West Logan Square
Philadelphia

Dear Sir:

Permit me to extend my most sincere congratulations to your election as Mayor of our city and also my best wishes for the coming Olympiad of your administration, which may stand out, as does the rock-built castle Blankenburg, constructed one thousand years ago by Heinrich dem Vogler in old Braunschweig. I am sure that the German-American Historical Society—whose president I have the honor to be—will not forget to remember your administration to come as a further link between Germany and America—and to show what a German-born American can do. Two hundred twenty-eight years ago Pastorious came to the Friend's colony to build Germantown—Twenty-second Ward—and now another Hirte will help to build and rebuild the other wards and care for brotherly love.

Yours most sincerely,
(Signed) Albert Bernheim

"The Church will be opened tomorrow from three to five, that any one who so desires may

come and pray for a pure ballot and a clean government in our city."

1507 N. Opal Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
November 12, 1911

Dear Mrs. Blankenburg:

Trusting this will not be out of place, I, too, would send congratulations to you on Mr. Blankenburg's election as Mayor.

It is magnificent—to think about it.

When I heard the news in the morning after the election, I went back into my room, and with tears of joy streaming down my face I dropped on my knees and thanked the dear Lord that my prayers had been answered and my dream of years had such a sweet awakening.

I love my city. I love my country, and above all, I love my God, and I love to think of the day when our beloved city was snatched from the hands of the wicked, and I can still hear the words ringing in my ears, as our next Mayor said, on Thursday night at the mass meeting, "On next Wednesday, our city shall be redeemed."

I think I shall never forget that meeting, and I felt that God would remember His people when they were so earnest and had worked so hard to this end.

The prayer can truly come from my heart now when I pray the Lord to bless, and strengthen our Mayor and his dear wife.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) M. Clara Merritt

And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.--1 Sam. 30:8.

Bullitt Building
Philadelphia, Pa.
November 9, 1911

Dear Mr. Blankenburg:

Again and again let me congratulate you. It is the most glorious victory in the history of this city, and you are the only living man that could have brought it about.

All honor to you, my dear Mr. Blankenburg, and my earnest prayer is that you may be blessed with both health and strength, for many many years to come.

Most sincerely,

(Signed) Herman Haupt

HAPPY CREEK FARMS
DEVON, PA.
Wednesday

MY DEAR MRS. BLANKENBURG:

Will you accept my best wishes, and congratulations on the wonderful victory of your husband? I was not surprised as I am always interested in politics—and I was most indignant at the methods adopted the last few months in Philadelphia.

I will be only too glad to do, in a small way, anything to help in his administration.

May I some day have a little talk with you on my hobby—dirty papers in the streets!

With kind regards to our Mayor-elect, I am
Sincerely,

(Signed) ELLEN WALN HARRISON
(Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison)

MECHANICSBURG, PA.
November 9, 1911

Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg
Philadelphia, Pa.

MY DEAR MRS. BLANKENBURG:

Congratulations—not so much for Mr. Blankenburg and you, as for Philadelphia. At first it seemed literally too good to be true, and we hardly believed it. One can hardly imagine Philadelphia with a *real* reform Mayor.

And we who know, through the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women, your position on all civic and moral questions, realize what a wonderful help you will be to him in the work before him.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) IDA G. KAST
Attorney-at-law

3308 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA
November 8, 1911

MY DEAR MRS. BLANKENBURG:

Philadelphia has found her "Honest Man"; she can put out the lantern now and cease her search.

God bless him and you too! Somehow my mind reverts to you through it all, for it means great sacrifice, this gift of your best to the city's life. But already the sun shines brighter and the air is fresher for the rest of us.

It is something to have brought that to pass in a great city like ours.

Lovingly yours,
(Signed) MARY V. GRICE

(Mrs. Grice was president of the Home and School League.)

State of Colorado
Civil Service Commission
State Capitol, Denver

Here's my hand —Shake it!
Here's my heart —Take it!
Here's my best bonnet —Throw it up!
Here's the forty pounder—Fire a hundred guns!
E Pluribus Unum!
Erin go Bragh!

(Signed) Sarah S. Platt Decker
Ex-President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

Later Letters of Approval of a Business Administration

Philadelphia
January 23, 1913

Honorable Rudolph Blankenburg
City Hall
Philadelphia, Pa.

Not to the Mayor, dear Friend, but to my old, old Comrade, Mr. Blankenburg:

I wish to congratulate you on the superb outcome of comradeship evoked by the happy thought of Director Cooke and your own purpose, no doubt, by means of the great gathering of last evening.

The Public Works will have a new throb of life throughout this domain.

Your speech was admirable, forceful, and well heard in every part of the hall, as I took pains to find out by visiting various points.

I do not know of any man that could have marked out the course for the Ship of Public Works and steered it as well as you did last night.

Very truly,
(Signed) JOHN WANAMAKER

(Reference was made by Mr. Wanamaker to an address at a Public Works banquet.)

1525 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA
January 1, 1913

MY DEAR MR. MAYOR:

Permit me to congratulate you on a year's good work. Only those who know what you had to contend with and *undo*, can realize what you have *done* in so short a time.

As a citizen I thank you; as a friend I am proud of you; as your supporter I am proud of myself!

May strength be yours to fulfill your dreams of what your administration is to achieve. May

the New Year be one of civic and personal blessing, health, prosperity, rejuvenation.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) SOLOMON SOLIS COHEN

1905 SPRING GARDEN STREET
PHILADELPHIA
January 2, 1913

DEAR MR. BLANKENBURG:

I have read your message to the citizens with great satisfaction and wish to congratulate you on the splendid showing; but what it means to have accomplished so much no one knows but yourself. (Would that every citizen knew!) To enter upon your term with all the powers for evil arrayed against you it is really wonderful. May God in His infinite power and goodness give you strength to carry on the good work, and may our citizens be so impressed with a "righteous" government that it will be continued after your term shall expire.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) T. BROOM BELFIELD

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS NO. 3
JUDGES' CHAMBERS
January 2, 1913

MY DEAR MAYOR:

If it had been possible, I should have paid my respects to you yesterday. I wish to congrat-

ulate you upon your course in the high office, which I helped you to enter. I have no reason to be ashamed of the part that I took in your inauguration.

Nobody, I believe, questions your honorable intentions and your conscientious adherence to principle.

I sincerely trust that the balance of your term of office may be full of recompense to you in the consciousness of devotion to duty and in the appreciation of your fellow citizens.

I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) ROBERT N. WILLSON

To Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg

BAR HARBOR, MAINE

MY DEAR MAYOR:

I deeply regret that in this crisis of our affairs I am unable to be in Philadelphia. I would give a good deal to be able to stand by you personally in this fight and do what I could to bring about such a state of affairs as would give you the efficient support you have long needed. I think I should like to say out of third chapter of Revelation what the angel of the church in Philadelphia wrote:

"These things saith he that is holy, he that is true. . . . I know thy works: behold, I have

set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Very truly yours,
(Signed) S. Weir Mitchell

August 15, 1913

(Dr. S. Weir Mitchell was the distinguished physician and writer of historical fiction.)

Corn Exchange National Bank
Philadelphia
February 21, 1913

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
City Hall
Philadelphia

My dear Mr. Blankenburg:

May I take the liberty of expressing the pleasure I feel over your action in vetoing the eighty-cent gas bill. I know it took considerable courage to take an action of this kind and I am very glad that you were able to meet a very embarrassing situation.

I feel proud that Philadelphia has a Mayor to do the right thing at the right time and feel sure that the great majority of the people are with you in this matter. I hope it will be a long time before the proposition is brought up again, as the city needs the money very badly. Even if taxes are increased in other directions I feel sure

the money could be used to great advantage in the development of the city.

Thanking you for the action you have taken in the matter, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) CHAS. S. CALWELL
President

LAND TITLE BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA
April 1, 1913

DEAR MAYOR BLANKENBURG:

Your kind letter received yesterday did much to brighten my day. While I endeavor to bear up under adverse criticism, your words of appreciation are the most encouraging thing that has ever happened to me.

Such success as I have so far had here has only been made possible by your kindly support and most helpful coöperation.

In helping you to fulfill your promises to the people, I am, dear friend, entirely at your command.

Believe me,

Most sincerely yours,

(Signed) T. E. MITTEN

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
214 W. Logan Square
Philadelphia, Pa.

1321 Thompson Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
April 15, 1915

To Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor of Philadelphia

My dear Mayor:

It may seem a late date for me to now express my appreciation of your *good* business administration but every day I am more and more impressed with your "good housekeeping" in *every department*, and especially your unrelenting care of the streets and public property in general. I have been driving over our streets for nearly forty-five years and I never remember them in as good condition.... You had my *sympathy* on and before your election and you still have it for what you have had to contend with, and it is not only now my pleasure but *my duty* to express myself in this way....

(Signed) Chas. Williams

630 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
December 6, 1915

Honorable Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor of Philadelphia

My dear Mr. Blankenburg:

As a humble citizen and minister of Philadelphia I wish to express my profound admiration

and gratitude that in the providence of God you were given to our beloved city as its chief executive.

The German revolution of 1848 gave to America many valuable citizens who quickly caught the spirit of our free and progressive civil institutions. You are a fruitage and example of that outburst of Germanic vigor and idealism. Philadelphia has never had a more high-minded and efficient Mayor than you. Your strong, transparent honesty and devotion to the public good have been a protection and inspiration to many lesser men seeking to serve the body-politic. You and your cabinet have set a standard and a pace which will be felt for years to come. Your conscientious observance of the Civil Service law may have lost the continuation of the reform party's political success, but time will justify your stand for an honest observance of the law.

Your unselfish devotion, your business-like administration, your breadth of vision, your unfailing courtesy, your optimism, and above all your magnanimity toward political opponents have made you an exceptional chief magistrate. You retire from office honored, beloved, crowned with honor, and the peace of God.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Edwin Heyl Delk

PHILADELPHIA
August 13, 1915

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor of Philadelphia
City Hall, Philadelphia

MY DEAR SIR:

I was very much pleased to receive a copy of the pamphlet, *A Short Retrospect.* Ever since your administration began, I have called the attention of everyone that I could to the fact that, for the first time in our generation, the administration was conducted on a non-political basis and that a dollar's service or value was received for every dollar expended.

I am now fifty-eight years old and this is the first time in my life that there has been such an administration and, while I am optimistic, I fear it will be my last experience, although I hope for better things.

When you leave your office you will have the knowledge that you have done the greatest good in the city of Philadelphia, that lies in the power of any man to have done; something that is much better than placing the community on a prosperous financial basis. You have divorced politics from your administration and you have seen that honest government predominates in all its branches. Your administration has been like the lifting of a murky cloud, choking us, to

a high and clear elevation and leaving us to breathe a purer air.

You are aware, of course, that you possess the affection and respect of the community, and, it is my hope that while you are still alive, the public will come to a fuller recognition of the services you have done for them.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) HARRY B. FRENCH

2944 N. FAIRHILL STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
December 18, 1915

Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg
Mayor of Philadelphia
MY DEAR SIR:

Kindly accept these few lines as a sincere Christmas greeting from one who wishes you many years of continued prosperity and happiness.

I am glad the great city of Philadelphia has been honored in having you as Mayor and the great good brought about during your administration will be evident years hence, I am sure.

Several times I have seen you, always with a sense of pleasure, but never have been permitted to shake your hand or personally speak to you, so I take this means of wishing you all that is good and trust God shall bless both you and

your good wife and that you may live many years yet, and see the fruits of your efforts and labors to make this city—our city—the best in the land.

I wish you a hearty and a Merry Christmas and the brightest and happiest of New Years. Would it be asking too much to request your autograph—I should certainly be pleased to have it?

I thank you and wish you well.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) CLEVELAND ROSSITER

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